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THE TIMES

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State Department warns Saddam against use of chemical weapons to suppress uprising

US may resume bombing if Iraqi rebels are gassed

By Martin Fletcher and Our Foreign Staff

AMERICA has drawn up plans to bomb Iraqi military units that use chemical weapons to suppress uprisings against President Saddam Hussein, it was reported yesterday.

The Bush administration has received intelligence reports that Baghdad has ordered military commanders in Najaf and Karbala to use gas against the rebels. Iraqi opposition leaders say that the two Shia holy cities have already been showered with poison gas.

Sheikh Abu Maitham al-Saghir said in Beirut yesterday: "Najaf was hit with chemical artillery, but the gases were out of date so were harmless. Thank God the gases did not work, but people reported that a sticky substance fell on them."

American officials said they had no evidence that chemical weapons had been used, but Iraq had twice been warned not to resort to them. The National Security Council met last Friday to review the position and, according to *The Washington Post* and the *New York Times*, air strikes were considered the most feasible response to any such attack. The newspapers said that communications from the high command in Baghdad, giving precise instructions to battlefield commanders to drop a gas bomb on a specific place at a specific time, had been intercepted on Thursday. Baghdad was said to have urged the commanders to "use the liquids" because "time is not on our side".

The intelligence reports coincided with the appointment of a man notorious for his use of chemical weapons as Iraqi interior minister. Ali Hassan al-Majid, a cousin of Saddam, was responsible for the gassing of 5,000 Kurds in 1988. Baghdad has also expelled all foreign journalists, adding to fears of a crackdown.

Last week, the American ambassador to the UN warned his Iraqi counterpart that America would take very seriously any use of chemical weapons against dissident forces. The State Department delivered another warning to the senior Iraqi diplomat left in Washington. James Baker, the Secretary of State, confirmed that the warnings has been issued, but did not say what action would be taken if they went unheeded.

One official said yesterday that air strikes were the only option. Another added: "The ground option is definitely precluded. That leads into the destruction of Iraq and we've said that won't happen. It would mean a longer ground war with the risk of backlash and casualties."

The administration has no desire to become involved in Iraq's internal affairs, but an official quoted in the *New York Times* said: "If he uses gas, we are right there in the country and I don't think morally we could let him do it and not do anything about it."

President Bush has frequently urged the Iraqi people to overthrow Saddam, and opposition leaders claimed yesterday that 29 cities and hundreds of towns and villages were now controlled by rebels. Sheikh al-Sagir estimated that three-quarters of Iraq was "in the hands of the uprising" and said that all of Baghdad's suburbs had fallen to the rebels. In the north, Kurdish rebels said they had captured several towns around the oil centre of Kirkuk and that they were poised to take the city.

More than 250 delegates from 30 groups opposed to Saddam met in Beirut yesterday for the start of a three-day conference designed to support the rebel action and to plan a coalition government for a post-Saddam Iraq. Delegates were anxious to dispel any suggestion that the uprising was an Islamic revolution, insisting that it was a popular revolution against Saddam and that the future of the country would be decided democratically.

One delgate, Abdul Khaleq Zinkneh, said that the conference would consider proposals for a temporary coalition government to represent the various opposition factions once Saddam was ousted. "The proposed government will rule for a year, after which free and general elections will be held and only the Iraqi people will design the new regime in Baghdad."

President Rafsanjani of Iran yesterday repeated his call for the Baghdad government and the rebels to make a deal to avoid all-out civil war. He again urged the Iraqi leadership to submit to the will of the people, saying suppression of the rebellion would be its biggest and last mistake.

Meanwhile, Kuwait remained in turmoil after the expulsion of the occupying forces. Resistance leaders continued to take revenge on Palestinians accused of collaborating with the Iraqis, and the British ambassador expressed concern about the lawlessness in the emirate. Michael Weston said the treatment of some Palestinians had been brutal, and he urged the Kuwaiti government to name the date for elections as soon as possible.

Arab backing, page 10
Kurdish success, page 11
Road to Damascus, page 12



Great to be back: Flight Lieutenant John Nichol, who was held by Iraq, at RAF Laarbruch, Germany, yesterday

Women seeking virgin births

By Ray Clancy

A WOMAN who has never had sexual intercourse is receiving fertility treatment so that she can conceive, the British Pregnancy Advisory Service said yesterday. Several other women have expressed an interest in a "virgin birth" and are being counselled to see if they are suitable.

The woman, who is in her 20s, could become the first modern mother to conceive without having had sex. She has not been identified, but is understood to be from the Midlands and is being treated at the BPAS's clinic in Birmingham. "There are a number of women who are not in sexual relationships, have not been, and perhaps do not want to be. One woman who fits this situation is currently being treated at our clinic," said Tara Kaufmann of the BPAS.

The woman has gone through counselling to make sure she is prepared for the demands of parenthood. Now she is having fertility treatment to be implanted with sperm from the clinic's sperm bank.

Doctors are cautious about the growing number of women who are expressing an interest in having a child without the usual sexual relationship. Dr Sue Jennings, of the London Hospital Medical College, expressed her concern in a letter to *The Lancet* in which she reported the case of a woman, aged 32, who was referred to the hospital's fertility clinic by her GP.

The woman was referred for counselling. "The patient saw nothing unusual in her request. She believed that medical technology would provide the answer to all her dreams, and she pictured a life abroad with a perfect child where no one would know her ... she became very angry when both the referring consultant and the psychotherapist recommended further counselling before any fertility treatment. She accused the staff of trying to control her decisions when her mind was made up and said that treatment procedures were scientific and preferable to sexual relations."

BA under pressure

British Airways, stung by what it feels is lack of government support, is to review jobs and routes worldwide. Relations between BA and the Department of Transport under Malcolm Rifkind are strained after his decisions to open Heathrow to competition and transfer some Japanese routes to Virgin.....Page 21

Aids campaign



Kimberly Bergalis, 23, is the first person in the US believed to have contracted Aids from a dentist during treatment. Now she is pressing for tough laws to make health workers disclose if they are HIV positive or have Aids.....Page 16

Jobless rise

Unemployment is rising faster in Britain than in any other country in the European Community, according to an analysis by *The Times*. This week's figures are expected to show unemployment above the two million mark..Page 4

Refugees return

Italy allowed an Albanian ship carrying 2,000 disillusioned refugees to leave the southern port of Brindisi to return home four days after their arrival.....Page 9

Tanks on patrol

Security is tight in Belgrade despite the withdrawal of tanks after protests in which at least two people died. Opposition leaders say the police provoked clashes before the protest began .....Page 20

Spurs through

Tottenham Hotspur have been drawn against Arsenal in the FA Cup semi-finals on April 14 after beating Notts County 2-1 in the sixth round.....Page 34

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Families welcome Tornado crew

From Ian Murray
at RAF Laarbruch

A CAPTURED British Tornado crew spoke for the first time here yesterday of being shot down and imprisoned in Iraq, after they returned to a champagne welcome in the sunshine from their wives and families.

Laughing and looking fit, they contrived to make their experiences sound like a *Boys' Own* adventure. They nevertheless were under orders to say nothing about their treatment while in Iraqi hands. Flight Lieutenant Rupert Clark, who described in detail how he ejected from his stricken aircraft, refused to say anything at all about his navigator, Flight Lieutenant Stephen Hicks, who is still listed as missing. The RAF appears to be taking no chances that anything said might put at risk any of the aircrew whose whereabouts are still unknown.

Flight Lieutenant Clark, the son of a retired air vice-marshal who was on the tarmac to greet him, won television fame in the early days of the air war when he said his bomb "ran on rails" to its target. Yesterday he described what it was like when things went badly wrong instead in the cockpit of his Tornado. He was having what he described casually as "a bit

Continued on page 20, col 6

Home thoughts, page 11

Heseltine plan to scrap uniform business rate

By Douglas Broom, Local Government Correspondent

LOCAL authorities will regain the power to levy their own business rate if the cabinet accepts Michael Heseltine's plans for the reform of the poll tax. The environment secretary has made it clear that abolishing the poll tax would inevitably mean also abolishing the uniform business rate, which was introduced at the same time, in April last year.

His proposal is that councils should be free to set a local business rate, but that the government would limit the annual increases in rate poundage. Officials have discussed using a banding mechanism to prevent councils from over-charging businesses or from setting a low rate that failed to reflect their fair share of the cost of services. At present the business rate is set nationally by the Treasury, which collects the money into a central pool. The income is distributed to councils on a formula basis, regardless of the amount of industry within their area. While some businesses in previously highly-rated areas of London and the North have welcomed the uniform business rate, many more, particularly in the South, have suffered from big increases under the new system.

Underlying Mr Heseltine's business rate plan is the recognition that by abolishing the individual poll tax ministers will destroy the foundations of the present system used to distribute central government grant to local authorities. Grant and funds from the business rate pool, which account for about two thirds of local council income, are paid as fixed sums per head of population to match poll tax payments by individual residents. By returning to a form of local taxation similar to the rates, the grant system would again need to take account of the total rateable value of properties in each local authority area.

Leaving the uniform business rate system in place would complicate matters by creating two parallel systems of grant distribution. A senior government source said yesterday: "It makes sense to go back to a single system for distributing grants based on measuring the rateable values of each area and paying grant to even out the differences between areas. "That was the system we had under the rates and it prevented the large differences that have developed between community charge levels in different parts of the country."

Returning business rate-raising powers to councils would also have the advantage of allowing them to use the income to limit increases in local domestic taxes.



Mr Heseltine: return to local taxation

Liverpool pact, page 2
Ronald Butt, page 12
Leading article and Letters, page 13

Russians vow to vote against union treaty

From Bruce Clark in Moscow

HUNDREDS of thousands of people all over Russia joyfully demonstrated their support yesterday for Boris Yeltsin's "declaration of war" on the Soviet leadership, pledging noisily to vote against President Gorbachev's proposed new union treaty in Sunday's plebiscite.

Privately, however, activists in the radical movement loyal to the Russian Federation president remained cautious about the chances of a negative result in the plebiscite, on which President Gorbachev has staked all his credibility as Soviet leader.

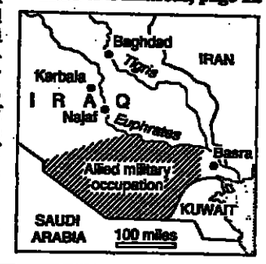
A public meeting of 100,000 people in central Moscow set the seal on a new mood of determination and unity among the radicals, who are facing a ferocious counter-attack from the Communist party establishment, including Mr Gorbachev.

Similar rallies were held at provincial cities from Leningrad to Vladivostok.

At the Moscow protest, a good-humoured crowd, which including entire families waving pre-revolutionary Russian tricolours, would rhythmically chant "Resign, resign" whenever the Soviet leader's name was mentioned. While the demonstrators' ages varied widely, a disproportionate

Continued on page 20, col 4

Coal strike, page 9



Britons learn to tell wine from paint-stripper

By Alan Hamilton

AFTER twenty years of guzzling vast quantities of some of the world's most outstandingly indifferent wines, the average British palate is finally learning the difference between Château Lafite and red ink.

In the eyes of supercilious foreigners, the British wine drinker has always been perfectly happy to have successive coats of paint stripped from the roof of his mouth by the deeply inferior products of unscrupulous producers taking rich advantage of his ignorance, and is equally at home with his morning-after mouth inhabited not so much by a tongue as by a tram driver's glove turned inside out.

Not any more, according to Euromonitor, a firm of market analysts who monitor and predict consumer trends across the Community. According to their latest report, Britain is eschewing plonk in favour of more expensive vintages, and is no longer asking merely whether a wine is red or white, but where exactly it comes from, what year it was made, and what grapes it was made with.

The report says that demand for premium wines in the United Kingdom is expected to increase dramatically, an encouragement to the quality producers of France and elsewhere, but a dire warning to farmers who have too long made an easy living adding indifferent plonk to the European wine lake.

Curiously, the report comes at a time when Britain is said to be experiencing its first downturn in wine sales for more than two decades, an indicator, if true, of a recession so deep that it is biting into life's little necessities. Last year's sales figures are still being counted by the Wine and Spirit Association, the leading trade body, but predictions speak of 20 million fewer bottles sold in 1990 than the 780 million consumed the previous year.

Even champagne, a substance normally immune to the vagaries of the real world, appeared to have recorded its first decline in sales in Britain for a decade, signalling perhaps the true demise of the yuppie era. The more sceptical end of the wine trade, however, has greeted the figures with a reminder that the Budget is almost upon us, and that it is in the importers' interests to persuade Norman Lamont that they are doing badly to help to stave off any increase in excise duty. Euromonitor, however, takes a bullish long-term view. "Pressure on consumer spending could constrain growth in the short term, although longer-term prospects are excellent," its report says. "The general trend towards buying more expensive bottles will continue to dent sales at the lower end of the market." Sales of sparkling wine in particular are expected to soar over the next five years.

Over the next three years, the market analysts expect wine consumption in most European countries to fall but not, apparently, in Britain or Germany. Very soon, the predictions seem to suggest, Britain will either have pulled itself from recession, or be so deep in it that the only route to an easy mind will lie via Cabernet Sauvignon, a decent year, and château bottling. There is still, however, a very long way to go; the nation's best-selling wine remains the old standby, Liebfraumilch.

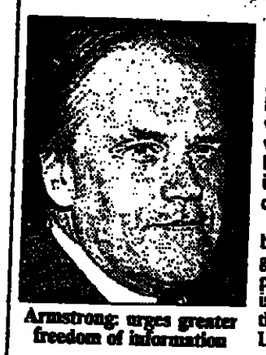
RAISED IN THE HIGHLANDS.



THE FAMOUS GROUSE
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE.

Armstrong calls for less ministerial economy with the facts



Armstrong: urges greater freedom of information

By RICHARD FORD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LORD Armstrong of Ilminster, the former cabinet secretary with whom the phrase "economical with the truth" will be forever linked, has called for more information on government decision-making to be made public.

Having spent 30 years at the heart of government, he has suggested the introduction of a code of practice that would compel ministers to provide details of how they reached a particular decision. Lord Armstrong, former head of the home civil service and cabinet secretary for eight years of Margaret Thatcher's period as prime minister, said that an ombudsman could be appointed to monitor the way in which ministers followed the code.

He said that another way had to be found to provide more information on decision-making because the constraints of parliamentary time meant that statements or answers in the Commons were short. In any case, parliamentary questions were often intended to make a political point rather than elicit information. "Inevitably if you make a statement in Parliament or you give an answer to a parliamentary question it is going to be rather short because parliamentary time is at a premium and we need to find, I think, some way of supplementing that to get the material out."

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *Open Mind* programme, he added: "I would like to see it in the form of some kind of code of practice, maybe supervised by an ombudsman or something, but a code of practice under which ministers would accept an obligation when they made a statement in the House of a major decision to produce written material which set out in some detail as fully as possible, subject to necessary confidence, the facts and figures and the considerations which had led to that decision".

He said that such a procedure would be good for explaining the process of decision-making to the public and the reason why ministers had adopted a particular course of action. The former cabinet secretary, who used the celebrated phrase "economical with the truth" during the *Spycatcher* case hearings in Australia, said that the introduction of such an obligation on ministers would be good for the process of decision-making within the Whitehall bureaucracy.

Lord Armstrong also suggested that governments could make better use of the green paper system, by which ministers often outline their initial thinking on a topic and seek views from the public and interested groups. He said: "I'm not sure we are making as much use of the technique nowadays as we could".

He gave a warning, however, of the consequences of the premature disclosure of decision-making, which he said could lead to people becoming entrenched in their positions and prevent sensible conclusions from being reached. The Westland affair had re-established the desirability of preliminary discussions leading to a decision made in private. He said that it was preferable for decisions to be taken in private rather than in "the glare of the goldfish bowl".

Travel firms flooded with re-bookings after ILG collapse

By BILL FROST

TRAVEL agents were inundated yesterday with enquiries from customers trying to salvage holidays after the collapse of the International Leisure Group. Tour operators called in extra staff to handle a flood of re-bookings by customers who had bought packages with ILG.

Thomas Cook and Pickfords Travel opened most branches and many smaller agents followed suit. Thomas Cook said that it had been 95 per cent successful in meeting the requirements of customers who had booked with ILG. "We have had an enormous number of people trying to re-book their holidays. Some had been hoping to go away this week, but most were trying to re-arrange their summer holidays."

Pickfords said that it was advising customers to re-book as soon as possible or ask for a cash refund. "They should not hold off and wait for ILG to start trading again."

Joanne O'Neill, a staff member at Pickfords in Chiswick, west London, said: "We have had quite a few peeved clients. After all, they have booked a holiday and want to go away. We made alternative bookings for the vast majority of customers."

The Tour Operators Study Group, representing many of the big companies, said staff had been working to ensure that holidays of thousands of could continue and that those overseas would be flown home. Martin Brackenbury, its chairman, said: "This huge rescue operation is only possible because we took the decision last Friday evening to call the £63.2 million bond for these companies, giving us the finance to protect the public without delay."

MPs called yesterday for a government statement after learning that Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, had been told twice of ILG's problems. Michael Colvin, chairman of the Conservative backbench aviation committee, said: "We want to know why the Civil Aviation Authority did not do anything sooner. It was the CAA's job to confirm the airline was financially viable and able to comply with all the statutory obligations when they applied for a licence."

BA jobs review, page 1

Air Europe route rescue is foiled

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

PLANS by Dan-Air to take over scheduled operations between Gatwick and Brussels from Air Europe have been dashed because the Civil Aviation Authority refused to grant it an emergency licence.

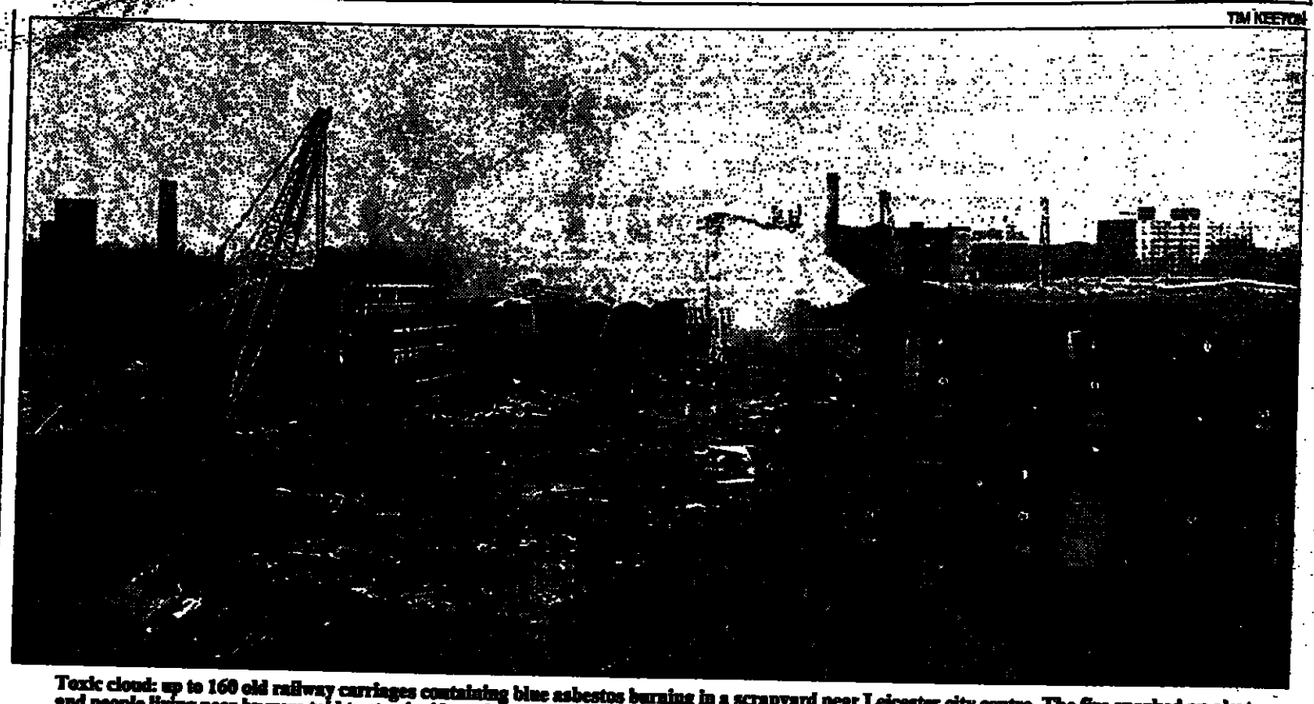
Hundreds of businessmen from the South-east will now have to go to Heathrow in the hope of a flight to one of Europe's most important trading and bureaucratic centres.

Air Europe's 350 scheduled departures a week from Gatwick included five a day to Brussels. It held almost 25 per cent of Gatwick's take-off and landing slots. The airline was granted the licence to fly between Gatwick and Brussels in 1987, when British Airways took over British Caledonian, in what the government saw as an attempt to increase choice. Now, Air Europe has stopped operating after its parent company, ILG, with debts of £480 million, had an administrator sent in, so no British airline is flying the route.

The CAA confirmed last night that it had received a request for an emergency licence, but would not be able to look at it until later this week.

At Gatwick, 250 Air Europe staff were last night asked to stay with the company to deal with the aftermath of ILG's collapse. The administrator will pay them. The other 1,850 Air Europe employees have been suspended without pay.

TIM KEETON



Toxic cloud: up to 160 old railway carriages containing blue asbestos burning in a scrapyard near Leicester city centre. The fire sparked an alert and people living near by were told to stay inside and keep doors and windows closed after firemen became concerned about toxic dust and fumes

Liverpool Lib-Lab pact beats capping deadline

LABOUR moderates and Liberal Democrats joined forces to approve an 11th hour compromise budget yesterday to keep Liverpool city council within the law.

The deal struck behind the scenes means compulsory redundancy for 386 council workers, instead of the 1,500 originally proposed by the moderate Labour leadership. The jobs will go mainly in the council's ground maintenance and security sections and the threat to 150 teachers' jobs is lifted.

The package also removes plans to close the city's Neptune theatre and two community centres, and to sell off the city's silverware. It keeps Liverpool just within the Government's £419 million spending limit to avoid capping, with a poll tax figure of £473.95 a head. But savings of more than £10 million still have to be found, half of it by the end of March, if the total required spending cuts of £26 million are to be achieved.

The council had been given until midnight last night to set a budget to avoid breaking the law. Councillors were told they could be disqualified from office and personally surcharged at a rate of an estimated £40,000 for every extra day beyond the deadline.

Some 200 council workers protested outside the meeting as the moderate Labour group leader Harry Rimmer said: "We have had consultations with the Liberal Democrat opposition party to see where the common ground lay between us and to see if we could agree something that had high hopes of receiving support across the chamber today."

To shouts of "resign" from some of the 29 suspended rebel Labour councillors, he insisted that the arrangement would not be permanent. Seconding the move, the first joint budget between two parties on the council, the Liberal Democrat leader Paul Clark said: "Both parties have decided that Liverpool is more important than petty rivalries and jealousies." The compromise package was eventually approved by 57-40.

Business rate, page 1
Ronald Butt, page 12
Leading article and letters, page 13

PR vote by Labour in Scotland

By KERRY GILL

THE "first past the post" system of voting for a Scottish parliament has been overwhelmingly rejected by delegates to the Scottish Labour party conference. They voted almost two to one for a form of proportional representation.

In spite of claims by a hard core of MPs and party members that PR was undemocratic and could harm the party's chances of taking power from the Conservatives, the Aberdeen conference decided to seek a form of PR should a Scottish assembly be established.

The vote was expected to back PR after a commitment made to a new system at the Scottish conference in Dunoon last year and backed by the party executive in February. Rejection of the present system was essential for the party as it must retain the backing of the Liberal Democrats in the Constitutional Convention.

However, George Foulkes, MP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley, said the decision could lead to Labour being open to blackmail from the Liberal Democrats. "If you accept PR for a Scottish parliament, it won't stop there. Next it will be PR to elect local councillors and then Westminster." He supported a motion to reject any change, was defeated by 423,000 to 223,000 votes and the plan to introduce reform backed by 517,000 to 125,000 votes.



Foulkes: party 'left open to blackmail'

Pilot dies in Sussex plane crash

A lone pilot died when his Cessna 175 crashed on farmland at West Dean, West Sussex, in fog yesterday. David Holliday, 39, of Breadfall, Derbyshire, had taken off from Tatenhill airfield near Burton on Trent on a pleasure trip to Henstridge, in Somerset, and was trying to land at Goodwood airfield after having engine trouble. He made a mayday call but rescuers found him dead in the wreckage of the four-seater aircraft four miles from the air strip.

Philip Renwick, a farmer aged 28, who owns the land where the plane crashed, said: "We heard a light aircraft engine spluttering overhead but couldn't see anything because of the thick fog. We heard no crash or explosion and thought everything was okay."

Crossword heat winners

Malcolm Fairy, aged 47, an assistant personnel director with Nottingham education authority, won the Birmingham regional final of *The Times*/Collins dictionaries crossword championship yesterday. Mr Fairy, of Radcliffe on Trent, completed four puzzles in an average of 12 minutes each.

Helen Ougham, aged 34, a plant biochemist at Aberystwyth, was second, and David Meadows, aged 58, a retired information scientist, of Alvaston, Derbyshire, third.

Oxford win

Oxford University beat Cambridge 5½ points to 2½ in the Varsity chess match against Cambridge at the Royal Automobile Club. Meanwhile, in a tournament in Lineras, Spain, Gary Kasparov, the world champion, joined his two Russian compatriots Vassily Ivanchuk and Alexander Beliavsky in the lead, with a tenth-round win against Jan Ehlvest, the Estonian Grandmaster

Prisoner dies

A murderer who absconded from a Bristol open prison last month was found hanging in his cell yesterday. Anthony Ross, aged 32, who had served 12 years of a life sentence for the murder of his baby, was recaptured nine days ago.

Special message

The world's youngest triple transplant patient, Debbie Wright, aged 23, of Leeds, has been given a special message of hope. Debbie, who is making progress, has received a card from Davina Thompson, who made history when she became the first patient to undergo the heart, lungs and liver transplant operation.

Tories heartened by poll leads

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE election strategists at Conservative Central Office can find hope in the opinion polls in spite of the party's defeat in the Ribble Valley by election.

Two polls published yesterday put the Tories ahead of Labour, confirming the findings of most other polls since John Major succeed Margaret Thatcher as prime minister. While Ribble Valley has dampened talk about an early election, the findings of the last ten polls highlight how the departure of Mrs Thatcher has transformed the Tories' electoral prospects.

In spite of the unpopularity of the poll tax, growing unemployment and the effects of the recession, most of the polls show that the Conservatives are managing to hold onto their lead over Labour. All the ten polls put Tory support at more than 40 per cent with yesterday's findings of a Harris poll in *The Observer* giving them an eight point lead. The Tories were on 47, Labour 39, Liberal Democrats 9. A Mori poll taken after Ribble Valley and published in the *Sunday Express* gave the Tories a smaller lead of only 4 points. The Conservatives were on 41, Labour 37, and the Liberal Democrats 16.

John Major and Chris Patten, Conservative party chairman, are likely to want further evidence of a sustained Tory lead in the polls, but a more accurate indicator of Tory support will come on May 2 in the local authority elections. Only when a detailed analysis of these results together with opinion poll findings are ready will the prime minister decide on whether to risk a June election.

Highest village goes for gold

By KERRY GILL

SCOTLAND'S highest village, Wanlochhead in the Lowther Hills, may become a second Dawson City, centre of the Yukon gold rush, next year if an attempt to hold the world panning championships there is successful.

The British Goldpanning Association, backed by council and tourist board authorities, has put the proposal to the international body that governs competitive gold panning. Last year, the British championships were held in the Southern Uplands.

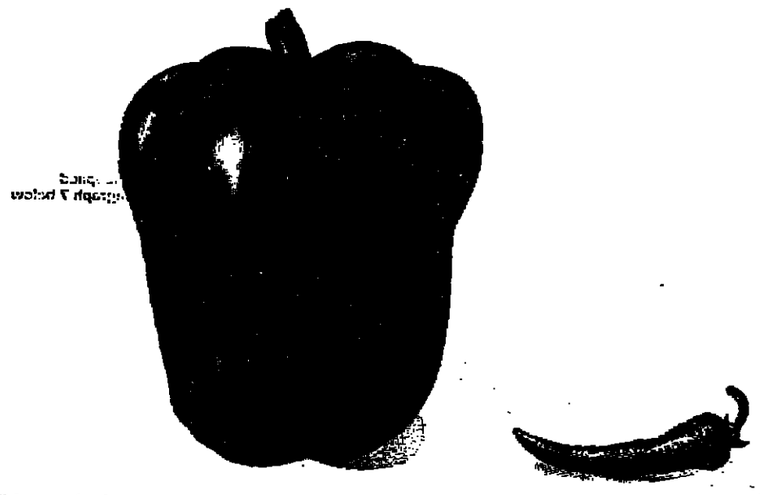
Vince Thurkettle, one of the country's leading panners, said that the 1992 event was about to be surrendered to Italy when it was decided to press a claim for it to be held in Scotland. "The championships have been going on for 14 years but have never been held in Britain. We have shown that panning can be successful in the Lowther Hills and that this venue is as good as any other," he said.

The association hopes to attract tourist board grants towards staging the championships, expected to cost less than £40,000. Hotels, it seems, are considered too soft for the hardy prospectors, who intend erecting a tent city.

Few people get rich panning for gold in the streams of Dumfries and Galloway, although enough is found to allow some local brides to have their wedding rings made of local gold. The competitors are not expected to find fresh gold during the championship. The usual test is to see how much can be recovered from a specified area within the stream after it has been deposited by the organisers.

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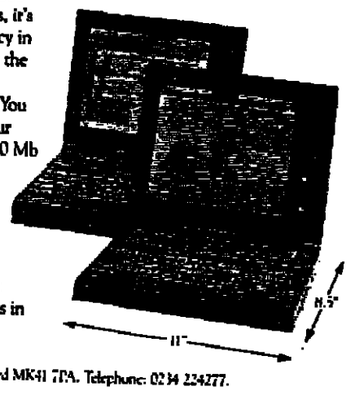
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750,000 children may be out of touch with absent fathers

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST half the fathers of children who live alone with their mother have lost contact with their offspring, according to a survey published today. The Family Policy Studies Centre survey says that only 57 per cent of absent parents stay in touch with their children.

"These distressing statistics mean that more than 750,000 British children could have lost contact with their fathers," Malcolm Wicks, the director of the centre, said. "Too often the separation and divorce of men and women also means the effective divorce of children from their fathers."

The findings from a study of more than 1,800 lone parents, carried out for the social security department by researchers at the York and Bath universities, show that children of single mothers living alone are particularly unlikely to see their father.

Four out of ten single mothers were aged under 20 when their first child was born, and only one in nine had planned to get pregnant, the survey found.

On average, marriages ending in divorce or separation had lasted eight years. In almost a third of these cases, the reason given for breakdown was adultery or infidelity. One in five gave domestic violence as a factor. One in 11 lone parents regretted, with hindsight, not staying with their partners.

The report also predicts that one in four children born this year will experience the breakdown of their parents' marriage before they are 16 years old.

Almost half the mothers were working on training schemes or registered as unemployed, including 23 per cent who had full-time jobs. Seven out of ten mothers were claiming income support and six out of ten considered they were hard-pressed financially. More than four out of ten lone mothers without jobs said that they would return to work earlier if childcare services were available.

Less than 40 per cent of lone parents had ever been awarded maintenance for their children and only 29 per cent were actually receiving it, getting an average payment of £16 a week. Of those who had no payments, 20 per cent said that they did not want any and 28 per cent said that their former partner could not afford to pay maintenance. The researchers, however, estimated that about 49 per cent of absent parents paying nothing could afford to pay something in child maintenance, and that 69 per cent paying less than £10 could afford to pay more.

One in five lone parents — mostly single mothers — said they would be unable or unwilling to reveal the absent parent's whereabouts under the scheme proposed in the maintenance white paper.

"At a time of family breakdown on a massive scale, promoting parental responsibility is vital," Mr Wicks said. "But it must go further than chasing up maintenance payments." Financial responsibility was crucial and the government was right to tighten up on this, he said. However, this was too narrow and negative on its own. "A positive emphasis is needed, as the child surely has a right to maintain contact with both parents, unless there is good reason why this should not happen," he said.



Kick start: Ruth Illing (left) and Hannah Grant run across the old quad at Rugby during a tour of the school for girls hoping to start in 1993

Vicar leads protest over abbey 'service'

By ALAN HAMILTON

VOICES have been raised in that corner of the old British Empire still known as Essex against the Queen's participation at Westminster Abbey this afternoon in the annual religious observance to mark Commonwealth Day.

Militant anti-syncretists in the Church of England, who oppose the blurring of boundaries between Christianity and other faiths, recently delivered to Buckingham Palace a petition of 77,000 signatures requesting the Queen not to attend, the perceived offence being that representatives of other main religions in the Commonwealth traditionally give readings from their respective sacred texts.

The head of the Commonwealth, who is also supreme governor of the Church of England, received the petition, read it, and gave it such short shrift that she will not only attend in person as usual today, but will be accompanied for the first time by the Prince of Wales, her presumed eventual successor as figurehead of an international club in which Christians are heavily outnumbered by adherents to other doctrines.

Opposition to the royal presence was led by the Rev Tony Higton, rector of Hawkwell, near Southend-on-Sea, a member of the church's general synod and a leading member of the evangelical movement which claims Dr George Carey, the archbishop of Canterbury elect, as a sympathiser. Dr Carey has lain diplomatically low.

Being present at the same religious occasion at which Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, Jews and Sikhs read from their own holy books, was tantamount to a breach of the Queen's coronation vows which committed her to upholding the Protestant religion, Mr Higton said.

"This will create tremendous distress among Christians. Many people in the Church are deeply concerned about syncretism.

Mr Higton, emphasising that he intended no disrepect to Queen or Commonwealth, said that there would be no objection if Commonwealth Day were marked by a secular ceremony.

Buckingham Palace confirmed yesterday that the evangelists' petition had been studied and hinted that the presence of the heir to the throne in the Abbey today provided the official answer.

Girls breach Tom Brown's bastion

By WILLIAM CASH

RUGBY School, a male preserve for more than 400 years, is to open its gates to Tom Brown's 13-year-old sister. In an effort to bring Tom Brown into the 21st century and shed its Victorian image of bullying, caning and rugby football, the school is to become fully co-educational from September 1993.

Michael Mavor, the headmaster, believes it could be the biggest change in the history of the school, which was founded in 1567. Rugby introduced girls into the sixth form, which now has 103 girls, in 1976. By 1995 the school plans to have 250 girls out of a total of 750 pupils.

With 80 per cent of pupils going on to university (some 80 each year to Oxford or Cambridge), Rugby is considered to be in the top drawer of English public schools, along with Eton, Harrow, Westminster and Winchester. Old boys include Salman Rushdie.

Although around 50 of the 200 schools which are members of the Headmasters' Conference are co-educational, Rugby is ahead of most of its rivals in introducing the change. The decision has nothing to do with a need to fill places, the school says. Mr Mavor came to Rugby last September from Gordonstoun, where he introduced co-education in 1972.

There will be five girls' houses, with housemistresses, for girls aged 13-18. In the first two years girls will share small dormitories of four to six, and in GCSE year and the sixth form they will have study bedrooms. Prefect duties and responsibilities will be the same across the school.

Rugby has a tradition of radical headmasters, notably the famous 19th century educational reformist Thomas Arnold, whose ideas had a significant influence on the development of the public school system. But the idea of girls playing hockey on the school's famous playing fields — where rugby was invented — would probably make Arnold turn in his grave.

Wildly inaccurate costings confuse GP budget-holders

By OUR SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

FAMILY doctors preparing to become budget holders under the health service reforms have been thrown into confusion because hospitals have been unable to price their procedures accurately.

William Waldegrave, the health secretary, is expected to announce on Wednesday that at least 280 general practices with more than 9,000 patients will hold their own budgets from April 1. The budgets, which have been set at more than £1 million for an average practice, will cover drugs, staff and the cost of some routine hospital operations.

However, doctors claim that the prices of operations, which they are only now getting from hospitals, are "wildly inaccurate" with some costs differing between hospitals by as much as £1,000 for the same procedure. Some hospitals have priced procedures ridiculously low while others are too high, doctors claim. In some cases the prices have been set by hospital managers without negotiating with medical staff. In many cases the prices quoted are much higher than charges in private hospitals.

GPs have been able to renegotiate prices with some hospitals but others have refused to alter their costs. Some doctors are concerned that unless they can find cheaper procedures elsewhere they will overspend budgets settled with their regional health authority before the hospital costings were given.

The discrepancy in pricing is mainly the result of unsophisticated accounting systems in the NHS which are still unable to give accurate costs for individual procedures. "Some places have charged £4,000 for a hip operation while others have charged £2,000," said John Callander, a GP in West Lothian, who is also on the British Medical Association's NHS reforms committee.

James Carne, a GP from City and Hackney, London, said one hospital had charged £600 for a vulvectomy while another had charged £8,000. The government has ruled out imposing limits on hospitals, arguing that GPs will shop around to find the best buy and so force high charging hospitals to lower prices.

Under the fund holding scheme, general practices will theoretically be able to change their referral patterns to buy cheaper or quicker operations. Health officials fear that if GPs change their referral practices significantly and send more patients to the private sector, this could hit less popular NHS hospitals.

Islanders aim to petition Major for public enquiry on seized children

As a petition is organised to demand an enquiry into child-abuse allegations, Kerry Gill reports conflicting reactions on Orkney

THOUSANDS of islanders on Orkney will be asked to sign a petition, to be delivered to the prime minister this week, asking him to order a public enquiry into the social work department's seizure of nine children alleged to have suffered ritual sexual abuse at the hands of some of their parents.

The four English families of the nine children, who live on South Ronaldsay, appear to have the backing of almost everyone on Orkney, incomers and native Orcadians alike, who believe, at best, that the social workers were overzealous, or, at worst, have acted out of vindictiveness because of the parents' support of a fifth family whose children were already in care following similar allegations.

The latest allegations have left the Orcadian community in a state of shock. An action group was formed at the weekend to help the parents. Although many islanders first feared becoming openly involved, most are now prepared to state publicly their backing for the four families, all middle-class, English and articulate. One said that if the authorities attempted to seize another child, they would face civil disobedience. Some spoke of blocking roads.

The families' lawyers are appealing for funds to pay legal expenses. John Moir, who represents two families, said: "This whole thing is just barbaric. We have to win." The evidence against the families will be heard at a sheriff court hearing early in April.

A visit to one of the families' homes, close to the small quarry where the acts are said to have taken place in the presence of the Rev Morris McKenzie, aged 64, Church of Scotland minister at St Margaret's Hope, makes the allegations all the more baffling. One mother, who cannot be named for legal reasons, typifies the large English community which has settled in Orkney. All said they came to Orkney to bring up their children in safety where they would avoid the dangers of modern society.

The mother spends her time milking goats, tending poultry and baking. The family is Quaker and espouses pacifism. A father of five children, who supports the families, said: "There is virtually no crime here. We thought South Ronaldsay was perfect for bringing up our children and now this happens."

The families are concerned that their support of the first family left them targets of the social work department under Paul Lee, its director. He emphatically denied that there was a vendetta and said that his staff had corroborative evidence that abuse might have taken place. He and his two senior social workers, Sue Miller and Michelle Miller, insisted that their action in seizing the children from their beds at 7am was in the children's best interests.

It is widely believed that the allegations stem from a teenager already in care. She was taught by one of the accused fathers who recognised that she was disturbed, but was making progress before she was seized by social workers in November. When asked about earlier abusive acts, he maintains that she was subjected to leading questions followed by mistaken interpretations. No attempt was made to check the validity of her evidence which, he said, collapsed in court in December.

Judy Parry, a former social worker who resigned during the Rochdale affair, said: "Social work departments throughout the country have become aware of the term ritual abuse. What they fail to realise is that such abuse very rarely takes place. They have never proved one single case and to take children from their beds on the word of an outsider shows the level of professional incompetence."

Leading article, page 13

AGENDA

The week ahead

Today
Environment minister launches radon information campaign. Basis of allocation of National Power/PowerGen shares expected to be announced. First end-to-end trip through Channel tunnel.

Tomorrow
Prison Governors' Association conference opens. Results of NOP survey on sex and contraception. Buckingham Palace investiture, including Piper Alpha awards.

Wednesday
National No Smoking Day. BR to unveil details of £1 billion networker train scheme for Kent. Gulf Jaguar jets return to RAF Coltishall. Institute of Energy conference on future of nuclear power industry. Michael Heseltine, environment secretary, presents Better Environment awards for industry. Launch of birth defects charity.

Thursday
Prince of Wales gives second annual Royal Agricultural Society lecture. EC environment commissioner calls for clean-up of London.

Friday
Queen opens terminal at Stansted airport. Debate initiated by Tam Dalyell MP on ecological effects of Gulf war. Liberal Democrats' spring conference opens. Comic Relief Day.

Saturday
Prime minister goes to Bermuda for talks with President Bush over post-war stability in Middle East.

Police chief voices doubts

By RAY CLANCY

THE involvement of children in ritual and satanic abuse has been exaggerated out of all proportion, leaving police and social workers in a difficult position, Sir John Woodcock, Chief Inspector of Constabulary, said yesterday.

He denied that police would shy away from investigating allegations of abuse after last week's decision at the High Court in Manchester to return ten children separated from their families in Rochdale after allegations of satanic abuse.

However, he said on Radio Four's *Sunday* programme: "There is a hype at the moment. Children can fantasise from time to time. You have to keep in mind that children can tell lies and untruths so you have got to be a really incredible judge of young people."



Sir John: 'Exaggerated out of all proportion'

The Association of Directors of Social Services is seeking a meeting with the Association of Chief Police Officers to discuss joint investigations of allegations of abuse.

● £5 million has been added to the health department's budget for training social workers by Virginia Bottomley, health minister, after the Rochdale affair and there will be up to £12 million more next year. All social services will be expected to use an updated version of a booklet brought out after the Cleveland case, which will have a chapter on "organised abuse".

The health department has also arranged for a two-year study by Professor Jean La Fontaine, a social anthropologist from the London School of Economics, to see if satanic abuse exists at all.

NORTHERN ELECTRIC

Take notice that Northern Electric plc has applied for a Private Electricity Supply Licence in the following terms:

1. Full name of the applicant.
Northern Electric plc.

2. Address of the applicant or, in the case of a body corporate, the registered or principal office.
Carliol House, Market Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6NE.

3. Where the applicant is a company, the full names of the current Directors and the company's registered number.
Executive Directors: David Richard Morris, Ronald Dixon, Alan Groves, Jack Albert Harmsworth.
Non Executive Directors: Paul Douglas Nicholson, Stuart Grant Errington, Ian Crawford McCutcheon.
Registered Number 2366942.

4. Where a holding of 20 per cent or more of the shares of an applicant is held by a body corporate or partnership or an unincorporated association carrying on a trade or business with or without a view to profit, the names and addresses of the holders of such shares shall be provided.
Not applicable

5. Desired date from which the Licence is to take effect.
1 April. 1991.

6. A sufficient description adequately specifying the nature and situation of the premises intended to be supplied separately identifying premises within the power bands specified in and to the extent provided by paragraph 7 below.
All non-domestic premises with a demand above 1 Megawatt in the following PES Areas:

East Midlands Electricity plc
Eastern Electricity plc
London Electricity plc
MANWEB plc
Midlands Electricity plc
NORWEB plc
Scottish Power plc
Scottish Hydro Electric plc
SEEBOARD plc
Southern Electric plc
South Wales Electricity plc
South Western Electricity plc
Yorkshire Electricity Group plc

7 (a) Subject to sub-paragraph (b) indicate the total number of premises intended to be supplied in each power band as shown in the table below, together with the aggregate energy forecast to be supplied and the aggregate estimated maximum demand for each power band.
(b) If the date in paragraph 5 above is on or after 1 April 1994 then only Power Band A shall be completed and if the said date is on or after 1 April 1998 then this paragraph will cease to have effect.

Power Band	Number of Premises	Aggregate Maximum Demand	Energy (GWh) to be Supplied
(A) not exceeding 0.1MW	None	None	None
(B) exceeding 01.MW not exceeding 1.0MW	None	None	None

8. A description of the system of electric lines and electrical plant by means of which the applicant intends to supply electricity, indicating which plant and lines are to be constructed and which are existing plant and lines, and further identifying any parts of that system which will not be owned by or otherwise in the possession or control of the applicant:

Lines and plant owned by:
The National Grid Company plc
South Wales Electricity plc
Eastern Electricity plc
East Midlands Electricity plc
London Electricity plc
MANWEB plc
Midlands Electricity plc
Northern Electric plc
NORWEB plc
SEEBOARD plc
Southern Electric plc
South Western Electricity plc
Yorkshire Electricity Group plc
Scottish Hydro Electric plc
Scottish Power plc
or any authorised electricity operator.

9. A statement of the extent (if any) to which the applicant considers it necessary for powers under Schedule 3 (compulsory acquisition of land etc.) and under Schedule 4 (other powers etc.) to the Act to be given through the licence for which he is applying.
All powers of acquisition of land etc., and all other powers available under Schedules 3 and 4 to the Act necessary to carry out activities under licence as a supplier of electricity within the areas defined.

10. Details of any licenses held, applied for or being applied for by the applicant in respect of the generation, transmission or supply of electricity.
Public Electricity Supply Licence.

Copies of maps relevant to this application have been lodged in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Electricity (Applications for Licences and Extensions of Licences) Regulations 1990 at Regional Offices of the Office of Electricity Regulation. Copies are available for inspection by the public between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on any working day.

J. M. FRANCE ACIS
Regulation Manager
Northern Electric plc
Carliol House
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE99 1SE

Ministers brace for jobless figures as cash cuts hit training and students confront a shrinking market

Britain tops EC scale of rising unemployment

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

UNEMPLOYMENT is rising faster in Britain than in any other country in the European Community, according to an analysis of international unemployment by *The Times*.

Ministers are bracing themselves for this week's jobless figures, which are expected to show that so-called headline unemployment has broken through the 2·00 million level. Unemployment has been above two million for two years, but as the recession continues to bite both the headline total of those out of work and claiming benefit and the seasonally adjusted unemployment figures to be published by the government on Thursday are expected to show a clear continuation of the rising trend of the numbers out of work.

Labour party leaders will use the figures to attack the government's economic policies in advance of the Budget. While ministers will again insist that the rise in unemployment shows the necessity for lower pay settlements, going through the psychologically important two million barrier virtually ensures some new employment measures in the Budget, including a temporary work scheme.

In advance of that, however, the analysis of unemployment increases across 21 countries shows the rate of growth in British unemployment to be the worst in the EC. Using data held by the employment department, *The Times*' computer analysis took the headline, unadjusted unemployment levels for each country — the only statistics held by the department which measure all EC countries — to look at the change in the number of people actually out of work. Figures for each country are the latest available year-on-year data.

On this basis, unemployment in Britain rose by 16.2 per cent — the highest rise in the EC. Second highest is Greece at 15 per cent, and third Italy at 4.7 per cent. Unemployment in France rose by 2.9 per cent, while in west Germany [reliable figures for a united Germany are not yet available] it fell by 14.2 per cent.

Overall, the average increase across EC countries was 0.2 per cent. Unemployment in Japan on the same basis fell by 5.3 per cent, while in America it rose by 18.5 per cent.

Labour leaders will seize on Britain's EC performance on unemployment, though the government will insist that the unemployment rate in Britain is one of the lowest in the EC. Michael Howard, employment secretary, says that, unstandardised, seasonally adjusted rates, unemployment in Britain at 7 per cent, compares favourably with the EC average rate of 8.4 per cent, and with rates of 9.9 and 9 per cent for Italy and France respectively. The west German unemployment rate stands at 6 per cent.

The Times figures may well show that seasonally adjusted unemployment has not yet risen above two million. If that does prove to be the case, even Whitehall officials privately admit that it is likely to follow the headline figure through the two million barrier over the next few months.

Thursday's figures are also expected to show that with seasonal adjustment, the number of people out of work in the UK has risen by nearly 300,000 since unemployment started increasing last April after falling for almost four years.



Howard: rates "compare well with those of EC"



Journey to a job? Albert Black, at the wheel of a training bus, listens to advice from instructor John Campbell

Tec chiefs press for more money

By DAVID YOUNG

THE team of senior businessmen running Britain's industrial training programme is to meet Michael Howard, the employment secretary, on the eve of the Budget to press for more government funding.

The team has persuaded the government to add £120 million to the training budget for 1991-2, but it will seek further funds to restore the national budget for training to at least the same levels as during the present financial year.

The chairmen of the Training and Enterprise Councils (Tecs), set up by the government to run training initiatives nationally, say that the £2 billion budget set by the government will be inadequate because of increased unemployment. They argue that the funds allocated represent a 45 per cent cut in real terms and that by the middle of this year many organisations will no longer be able to afford to provide employment training.

The 82 Tecs that will be operational by next year are led by company chief executives and are represented by ten chairmen, who will meet Mr Howard on March 18. They have told him that a Budget announcement that funds for training are to be restored would send the right message to the country that the government is serious about tackling long-term unemployment.

David Dickinson, a director of Stanhope Properties and chairman of the east London Tec, said: "The Tec movement is fragile. Many Tecs may prove to be too small and may need to merge. Some will almost certainly fail.

"They are, after all, very small companies limited by guarantee dealing with a most complex and unclear product range and facing a most Draconian cut in their adult training budgets. We're pleased to see that over 15 per cent of the 45 per cent cut has been replaced as the government looks ahead at long-term rising unemployment instead of backwards at falling unemployment."

Some Information Technology Training centres (Itecs) will close because of cuts in funding by the Tecs. Matthew Dickson, chief executive of the Association of Itecs, said that Nottingham Itec had announced that it would cease trading and Chesterfield Itec was at risk.

Funding for places in Itecs from sources other than Tecs had been cut by up to 50 per cent in two years. Mr Dickson said that he was concerned about the future for Itecs when Britain needed to increase skills in information technology. The 150 Itecs, established as a result of the 1981 Information Technology Act, provided 11,000 training places last year in subjects such as computing and electronics.

Other organisations representing training bodies are also concerned about government cuts. The National Council for Voluntary Organisations said that large areas of the voluntary sector were starting to disappear as national organisations closed training units because of cuts. Some Tecs have had to exclude from training all unemployed people over 24, instead concentrating on those aged 18-24 who have been unemployed for six to 12 months and for whom the government guarantees an employment training place.

The first sign that training organisations are having to close programmes came from Cobalt UK, a non profit-making training provider. After local Tecs refused to renew contracts, Cobalt said that it would close operations in Liverpool, which provided about 400 ET places, and at Wearside, where 100 places would go. Cash shortages are also affecting charities such as Apex Trust, which provides training for former offenders.

Liverpool suffers as courses collapse

By RONALD FAUX

ALBERT BLACK, aged 48, of Huyton, Liverpool is about to see his third government-sponsored training scheme fold beneath him.

"I hope this time I can get qualified before they shut the doors. If not, it's back to the dole and the poverty line," he says. Mr Black is seven months into a one-year course to become a heavy goods vehicle driver first class, which could be a passport to a job earning him £400 a week. But the training centre run by the Liverpool diocesan care and repair association has been told that funding is to be wound down at the month end and trainees transferred to other government schemes.

He has been on two training schemes before, for welders and motor mechanics, and both were closed prematurely. "All I want is a qualification that will get me a job and a bit of security," said Mr Black, who is married with one child and lives in a council house in Huyton.

The training centre is in a vandalised former school in Kirkby which the Association took over two years ago. In the past year 800 people have taken courses, ranging from bricklaying to dress making, in one of Liverpool's poorer districts. Trainees receive dole plus £10 a week travelling expenses. Stan Hulme, general manager, says that 200 have found jobs, set up their own businesses or gone on to full-time higher education from the centre in the past year.

Last week Mr Hulme signed the letter declaring himself redundant. He and his 53 staff will probably be joining the 350 trainees searching for another job. In future training managers will be paid on results so they are going to select those trainees with the best potential. How are people who are long-term unemployed from an area of hard-core, long-term unemployment going to fare?

The centre began as a church initiative and trainees were taken onto schemes centred on the city's Anglican churches. It has developed to provide 21 courses at Kirkby and at six other out-stations around Liverpool. The Association says that the advent of the Training and Enterprise Councils in June, will cut training places in Merseyside from 7,300 to 4,700.

Mark Dezille, aged 30, has engineering qualifications from various courses since he left the army but he is still without a job. A vehicle reconditioning course in Liverpool went into liquidation. "The course here in motorcycle mechanics is good, but it's difficult when the boss can't afford to have mistakes made. If it stops, it's back to the dole," he said.

Final-year students face harsh reality

By JOE JOSEPH

UNIVERSITY students due to graduate this summer are finding it hard to spare much anguish for those City high-fliers who have been jostled off the jobs ladder even before the warranties ran out on their company Porsches.

Final-year students are more frantic about their own chances of getting on to even the first rung of the employment ladder. Possible openings in the jobs market appear to be snapping shut before them like an underground escape route in an *Indiana Jones* adventure.

"There has undoubtedly been a change in students' perceptions," Tom Snow, head of Oxford university's careers advisory service, said. "The year off in Tahiti may not be the first option that many students take."

Offers on the milkround, the employers' travelling jobs circus, are down by 12 per cent. Overall, vacancies for university leavers have shrunk by a third.

"Many of the principal recruiters have been here," Mr Snow said. "But they are taking fewer people, partly because businesses are not expanding, partly because retention rates are higher. Marks and Spencer are asking many of those to whom it has already offered jobs to delay taking them up for a year."

At Cambridge a couple of years ago, final-year students used unwanted job-offer letters as scrap paper. Bill Kirkman, head of the university's careers service, said: "Graduates were in a sellers' market. That is very much less the case now because the market isn't there. But graduates remain in a very strong position relative to the rest of the job-seeking population."

Not strong enough for real peace of mind, however. Duncan Ross graduated from Cambridge last summer but postponed his job search while he took up the position of deputy president of the university's students' union. "People from Cambridge tend to have an advantage in the jobs market. But even so, I have a number of friends who graduated last summer, many of them with good science degrees, who are still looking for jobs. Many are looking at less conventional ways of working — things like job-sharing. If I hadn't got this job I don't know what I'd be doing."

Pat Raderecht, director of the Central Services Unit, which publishes job vacancy bulletins for university careers offices from a database of about 10,000 employers, said vacancies were more than 30 per cent down on last year and falling. "Compared to the 1981-2 recession, this drop has been much faster and could be greater still by the summer," he said.

Lords may back move on life sentences

Several peers are expected to support moves to abolish the mandatory sentence of life imprisonment for murder when the criminal justice bill has its second reading in the Lords tomorrow (Frances Gibb writes).

There is strong cross-party support for proposals made by a committee of peers under Lord Nathan in 1989 recommending that courts should have discretion to impose life sentences for the most serious cases of murder but also be able to impose a lesser penalty for crimes of passion, for example. Justice, the all-party law reform group, has tabled a new clause proposing that no court be required to sentence a person convicted of murder to imprisonment for life.

The clause would also place a duty on courts to state in open court when sentencing someone to life imprisonment the penal term of the sentence. Under the new clause, that period would be subject to appeal and would be the operative period for the purpose of parole and remission.

The proposal would also create a tribunal to review life sentences and decide whether a prisoner should be released, either on licence or unconditionally. This would also implement a ruling of the European Court of Human Rights regarding sentence reviews after the penal period.

Helicopter hits cables

One person was badly hurt and another feared dead after a helicopter crashed near Halifax, in West Yorkshire, yesterday.

The helicopter is believed to have hit high-tension cables before coming down in a field near Sentry Edge, north of Luddenden Foot and Sowerby Bridge.

Crime studies

Northumbria police will give classes in crime prevention to the public in a scheme being launched today. Officers will pass on their knowledge of subjects such as personal safety for women and security at home and work. Each course will cost £8.

Search for crew

The search for the remaining five crew of the wrecked trawler Pescado continued yesterday after the body of Jo-Ann Thomas, aged 23, the cook, was washed ashore near St Austell, Cornwall.

Manure artistry

Steven Cox, a sculptor, of Englefield, Berkshire, is to include a 10ft pyramid crafted from fresh manure in an exhibition of his work at Newbury Arts Centre.

Birds stolen

A thief stole £280 worth of birds — six goldfinches, two greenfinches and a linnet — after cutting through the wire at a private aviary in Tilbury, Essex, yesterday.

Spitfire sale

A second world war Spitfire is expected to fetch £750,000 at a Christie's auction at the Wroughton Science Museum at Swindon, Wiltshire, next month.

Sewers at last

A 35-year campaign for a sewerage system in the village of West Harptree, Avon, has succeeded. The district council has approved a £600,000 scheme.

Eagle recovered

A monumental eagle taken from a council storeroom at Conwy, Gwynedd, has turned up at an auctioneer's at Chester. Police said yesterday that a man was to appear in court.

Prize winners

Winners in the National Savings Premium Bonds weekly prize draw are: £100,000, number 1FN 970045, winner lives in Norfolk; £50,000, 22WZ 267866, Wiltshire; £25,000, 17ZW 347353, Herfordshire.

Haughey seeks summit with Major on Anglo-Irish links

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

CHARLES Haughey, the Irish prime minister, called this weekend for an Anglo-Irish summit with John Major, to conduct what he called a full review of relations between the two countries.

Mr Haughey told the Fianna Fail annual conference in Dublin that he hoped it would not be too long before he met the British prime minister. He wanted to capitalise on the "new and imaginative thinking" shown by the government in its attitude to Northern Ireland.

Mr Haughey quoted from a significant but little-noticed speech by Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, in his Westminster constituency in November. Mr Brooke then made clear that the government had no fundamental difficulty with a united Ireland if it was achieved through democratic means. "In Northern Ireland, it is not the aspiration to a sovereign united Ireland against which we set our face, but its violent expression."

Mr Brooke went on to define what he saw as Britain's enabling role in that process, a passage from which Mr Haughey quoted on Saturday night. "The British government has no selfish, strategic or economic interest in Northern Ireland," Mr Brooke had said. "Our role is to help, enable and encourage. Britain's purpose ... is not to occupy, oppress and exploit, but to ensure democratic debate and free democratic choice."

Mr Haughey spoke of his ambition to create a new progressive, prosperous and enlightened society, a vision which he wished to share with all the people of Northern Ireland. "Let us start talking to each other about it tomorrow, leaving everything else aside."

Mr Haughey's offer, which senior British sources indicated is likely to meet a favourable Downing Street response, comes amid what seem unmistakable signs of the imminent collapse of the Brooke initiative. The process has dominated Anglo-Irish relations for over a year but has been stalled since last July on the timing of the involvement of Dublin in any talks.

Although most participants have long regarded it as a now futile exercise, Mr Haughey seemed optimistic that talks might still get under way. He said he was convinced that painstaking attempts made to remove obstacles to progress could bring positive results. His reluctance to write the process off was mirrored by comments after the speech by senior British government sources, who indicated that a meeting between Mr Brooke and Gerry Collins, the Irish foreign minister, in London today could still bring further progress.

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Arsonists wreck Dr Johnson's retreat

By ALICE THOMSON

THE 200-year-old summer house where Dr Samuel Johnson worked on his masterpiece, *Lives of the Poets*, has been wrecked by fire, English Heritage said. The wood-and-thatch summer house in the grounds of Kenwood House, Hampstead, northwest London, was set ablaze by vandals on Friday, March 1.

Ian Dejardin, assistant curator, said the first reaction of English Heritage was "that recreating it would simply be to invite another attack". However, discussions are taking place with interested groups on the possibility of building a replica.

The summer house was originally built in the grounds of Dr Johnson's great friends Henry and Hester Thrale's house in Streatham Place, where Dr Johnson spent much of his later life. Their daughter Susannah moved it to her home in Ashgrove, Kent where she turned it into a shrine to the 18th century essayist. In 1960 it found its final home as a popular resting place for people strolling in Kenwood park.

Dr Johnson may have seen it as a fitting end to his beloved retreat. He began working in the Thrales's summer house after he was banished from the main house for nearly setting fire to it. Johnson was a great conductor of chemical experiments and according to John Canning, whose edited edition of Boswell's *Life of Johnson* is published this month, Henry Thrale once came into his room and saw the short-sighted Dr Johnson wielding a scorching flame near the wooden beams. Henry Thrale then gave him a brick house in the garden for his experiments and suggested he use the thatched summer house for writing.

Johnson spent most weekdays with the Thrales from 1765 until 1782, when Henry Thrale died and Hester fell in love with an Italian musician, Gabriel Piozzi.



Life of the poet: an 18th century engraving showing Dr Johnson at work in his beloved summer house

Unions seek to force recognition by petitions

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

TRADE union leaders are proposing union card checks, or petitions, rather than ballots among members as a way of testing support for union recognition in a company under a future Labour government's legislation.

The suggestion, in a TUC consultative document published today, could embarrass Labour leaders and is likely to be seized upon by ministers as evidence that the unions have still not accepted the ballot-based democracy forced upon them by the government.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, and other ministers believe that the unions will demand statutory procedures to require companies to recognise unions as the *quid pro quo* for helping Labour back to power. TUC unions have lost more than three million members in ten years and see statutory recognition procedures as a way of increasing their presence. The idea had been extensively discussed by TUC and Labour leaders, with both sides supporting staged recognition.

The TUC proposes a first stage of giving individuals a right to union representation regardless of the level of membership support. That would be followed by stage two, with perhaps 10 per cent support, at which companies would be required to provide facilities for unions. Stage three, at 20 per cent support, would give unions consultation rights, while stage four would give full negotiating rights. That would probably be triggered by 50 per cent support.

TUC leaders are concerned about how membership support could be gauged, and the document refers to the Grunwick dispute of the mid-Seventies in which a north London photo-processing company refused to allow Acas the facilities to ballot its workers on whether they wanted to be in a union.

The TUC suggests following American practice of unions producing "documentary evidence" of support, by a petition or signed cards from employees. Its leaders will discuss the proposals next month and something close to it seems certain to appear in Labour's manifesto.

● The AEU is supporting a claim of equal pay for equal value by 148 female sewing machinists at Vauxhall Motors' Luton factory. An industrial tribunal hearing into the case of six begins today.

Tory groups back licence fee but want BBC changes

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ADVERTISING, subscription and direct government grants have been rejected as "wholly unsatisfactory" alternatives to the BBC licence fee by two Conservative party lobby groups. They argue in separate studies published today that the licence fee remains the best way to fund the corporation while its audience remains universal.

The report by the Centre for Policy Studies argues, however, that the licence fee should instead be collected by a public service broadcasting authority, which would gradually reduce the percentage of income given to the BBC in order to support high-quality output on all networks, including satellite and cable channels.

Most of the new authority's income would go to the BBC, but commercial broadcasters would be encouraged to bid for funds to make innovative documentaries, arts and educational programmes, and one-off plays and drama series.

The authority, responsible to the home secretary, with its chairman and members appointed in the same way as governors of the BBC, would also ensure that such programming was transmitted at peak viewing times. It would have no editorial influence on BBC output.

However, none of the authority's licence fee money would be made available to ITV until the new 10-year Channel 3 licences have expired in 2003, the report argues. The BBC, meanwhile, would be able to cut costs and dramatically increase revenues from international programme and video sales.

A separate report by the Tory Reform Group recommends that the licence fee be slightly squeezed in the lead-up to the expiry of the BBC's royal charter in 1996 to force the corporation to cut its costs, slim down its management and choose priority areas in which it should specialise.

Both reports recommend that the BBC scrap its local radio network, given the proliferation of local commercial community stations. Such a move would save it £50 million a year, the Tory Reform Group says.

The Centre for Policy Studies argues that Radio 1 and Radio 2 should be privatised. That could save the BBC £78 million said the report's author, Damian Green, a former BBC employee and now a prospective Tory parliamentary candidate.

However, the Tory Reform Group rejects proposals to sell off Radio 1 and 2, arguing that the BBC "must not become a ghetto limited to the production of highbrow programmes for the middle class".

The BBC should also reduce its direct arts patronage, such as the £10 million spent annually to finance the five BBC orchestras, concentrating on funding individual concerts and plays, while letting the Arts Council sustain the organisations that put them on, said Mr Milligan, a former BBC and *Sunday Times* journalist and also a prospective Tory parliamentary candidate.

The Tory Reform Group, also says the BBC could minimise its "waste of public money" by relying on independents for 40 per cent of its programme output. The two-tier board structure of the BBC should be abolished, replacing the board of governors and the board of management with one single board.

Both reports reject the idea of funding the BBC through direct taxation, a policy which is gaining support within the Labour party.

A Better BBC: Public Service Broadcasting in the '90s (Centre for Policy Studies, 8 Wilfred St, London, SW1 E6PL). *What Shall We Do About The BBC?* (Tory Reform Group, Sheraton House, Castle Park, Cambridge, CB3 0AX)

Commons TV base is rejected

By JOHN LEWIS

TELEVISION crews producing the film of the Commons at work, used by the BBC, ITV and others, have been told that there is no room for them at Westminster.

The Commons accommodation and administration sub-committee has turned down an application by the broadcasting select committee for space for a permanent control room. The select committee had suggested that a control room and studios be provided in space above the central lobby.

The sub-committee decided, however, that the control room and its directors and staff of five could be sited just as easily outside the Palace of Westminister. They want to keep space near the Commons chamber for MPs.

The decision has annoyed the broadcasting committee, and an appeal to John MacGregor, leader of the Commons, Bernard Weatherill, the speaker, and the main services select committee are being considered. The sub-committee will reconsider the provision of studios later this year when phase one of the new parliamentary building opens and space may be released in the Commons.

MPs who want the unit to be in the Commons argue that the present practice of conducting interviews on College Green across the road carries an unacceptable risk of attack. Roger Gale, chairman of the Conservative media group and a former television producer, said: "By voting to make permanent the experiment of televising of the Commons we have willed the end, but not the means. What is needed is a broadcasting unit, a studio and a video library."



SIMON BIRT

Memory lane: Dame Vera Lynn, who sprang to singing stardom in the second world war, meets some of the 300-strong amateur cast of *High Heels in the Rubble*, a show at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, marking the 50th anniversary of the blitz on that city. It runs until March 23.

Rent puts maritime satellite HQ at risk

By OUR TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the world's most prestigious satellite communication organisations meets in London this week to debate leaving Britain for less expensive and more suitable headquarters abroad.

The meeting of the council of Inmarsat, the international maritime satellite organisation, comes after increasing frustration over rising rents at Euston, London, where the 63-nation body has been based since its inception in 1979. Attractive offers have already been made by several other countries whose governments are eager for the prestige and financial and technical spin-offs the organisation could bring.

At the same time, there is a feeling that the government has been less than wholehearted in helping Inmarsat to move within the United Kingdom, to a site more suited to its increasingly important role as the provider of mobile communications for ships, planes, vehicles and individuals.

That role was underscored at the weekend when Inmarsat-2 S2, the second of the organisation's second-generation satellites partly built by British Aerospace, was successfully launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Ramin Khadem, director of finance and administration, said yesterday that various sites had been suggested in Britain, including Glasgow. However, he added: "We need some incentive to stay here. France is offering lots of help, as are a number of other countries." Offers included attractive sites in Athens, Brussels, Berlin, The Hague, Paris and Copenhagen. Sources within Inmarsat say an offer from Canada for a site in Montreal is being looked on particularly favourably.

Dr Khadem said the organisation helped the British economy and that academic centres had benefited from its research and development budget. Sources at British Aerospace said that losing Inmarsat to another country could affect possible contracts for future satellites.

US luxury tax hits British car sales

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

SALES of British cars in America have dropped dramatically since a tax on luxury goods was introduced on January 1. The tax hits almost all the most exclusive cars made by European manufacturers.

Jaguar and Rolls-Royce, the two big British car companies which rely on American sales for a large slice of their profits, saw sales cut by half in the first few weeks of trading under the new tax. European commissioners will raise the issue at bilateral talks next month. They say that the tax is unfair and contravenes international trade rules by affecting only one section of America's import trade. American Federal authorities added the tax to all goods priced over $30,000 (£16,000) from January 1 to try to ease budget worries. The tax affects almost all products sent from Europe.

European car makers say that barely any of the cars made by America's big three manufacturers — Chrysler, Ford and General Motors — are over the $30,000 threshold. This means that European luxury marques, which account for only 5 per cent of the American market, will contribute 80 per cent of the $2 billion (£1.07 billion) revenue expected from the luxury tax on motors over the next five years.

Buyers rushed to beat the January 1 deadline. Jaguar sales of 1,879 in December, 1990, leapt to 2,204, while Rolls-Royce enjoyed orders for 200 limousines. That buoyancy was reversed in January when the tax added about $1,500 (£800) to a Jaguar and $19,000 (£10,000) to a Rolls-Royce Corniche. Jaguar sales fell from 1,523 in January 1990 to 511 and Rolls-Royce sales halved to about 55. Sales in February have provided little comfort with Jaguar down from 1,080 to 568.

Peter Ward, chief executive at Rolls-Royce, which is cutting 700 people from its 4,500 workforce at Crewe, Cheshire, as a result of the decline, said: "We were surprised to sell any cars in January. This tax has hit very hard at European car manufacturers who are at a clear disadvantage over home-based products and Japanese cars."

Sales of other prestige European cars also fell severely in the first month of the new tax. BMW's 7-series cars are down by 73 per cent, Porsche by 65 per cent and Mercedes S-class by 45 per cent.

Jaguar, relying on the US for 40 per cent of its output, has announced a cut of 1,000 out of 9,000 assembly jobs at its Coventry headquarters.

Porritt's visit hints at switch to Liberals

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER director of Friends of the Earth is to make a speech at a Liberal Democrat rally on Friday night that may foreshadow his eventually joining the party.

Jonathon Porritt is likely to suggest that the Green party, of which he has long been a leading member, is incapable of becoming a serious political vehicle for environmental concern in Britain and to raise the question of whether the Liberal Democrats offer "dark Greens" the only way forward.

Any move by Mr Porritt from the Green party would, on a small scale, be as traumatic as the Gang of Four leaving Labour for the SDP in 1981. A move would be unlikely to happen overnight, but there are clear signs that it is now on the cards. Asked at the weekend about his loyalty to the Green party, Mr Porritt replied: "I don't have a loyalty to the party *per se*, but to the ideas it represents. Any political vehicle is only as important as its ability to do the job."

Mr Porritt's move would be a fillip for the Liberal Democrats, enabling them to make a determined attempt for the green vote, beyond the capability of the Conservatives or Labour. His high profile fame would help to restore attention to environmental issues obscured by the Gulf war and the recession.

On Friday, in Nottingham, Mr Porritt will be guest speaker at a Liberal Democrat rally on the environment.

Civil service canteens and jails veto irradiated food

By MICHAEL HORNSBY AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

CANTEENS used by civil servants will not be offering irradiated food in spite of the government's assurance that it is perfectly safe and could reduce food poisoning. Prisoners will also not be served the treated food.

Irradiation has been legal since early this year as a means of preserving and disinfecting food items including herbs, spices, fruit, vegetables, poultry and shellfish. The government has apparently failed, however, to convince its employees of the benefits of the technology.

Reg Wheeler, chief executive of the Civil Service Catering Organisation, which comes under the Treasury, said: "We will not knowingly use irradiated foods. This is a purely commercial judgment. We do not question the scientific advice given to the government, but a degree of uncertainty about the safety of irradiation still exists in the minds of our customers."

Mr Wheeler said if irradiated food became more widely accepted by the public the position could be reviewed. "We are not in the business of going out ahead of consumer opinion and I think you will find that most caterers in the private sector will take the same view."



Clark: government "using cock-eyed logic"

The agriculture ministry said that there was no doubt about the safety of irradiation. "That has been confirmed by every scientific committee that has considered the matter."

Prison kitchens will not be serving irradiated food because the Home Office has decided that allowing consumer choice "poses difficulties in a prison environment". The defence ministry says it "does not envisage large-scale procurement of such products" for the armed forces because they would be too expensive.

The departments of health and education say that local authorities will be free to decide whether to provide irradiated food in schools, hospitals and old people's homes but it must be clearly labelled in accordance with government regulations.

David Clark, Labour agriculture spokesman, accused the government yesterday of cock-eyed logic. "Will school children understand enough to make an informed decision? Will schools have to inform parents that they are going to serve irradiated food? Some of the government's own departments are clearly nervous about using this process."

No food is yet being irradiated in Britain, though one company has applied for a licence to treat herbs and spices. The technology is practised in about 30 countries and some irradiated produce may have been entering Britain for some time because there is no means of detecting irradiation.

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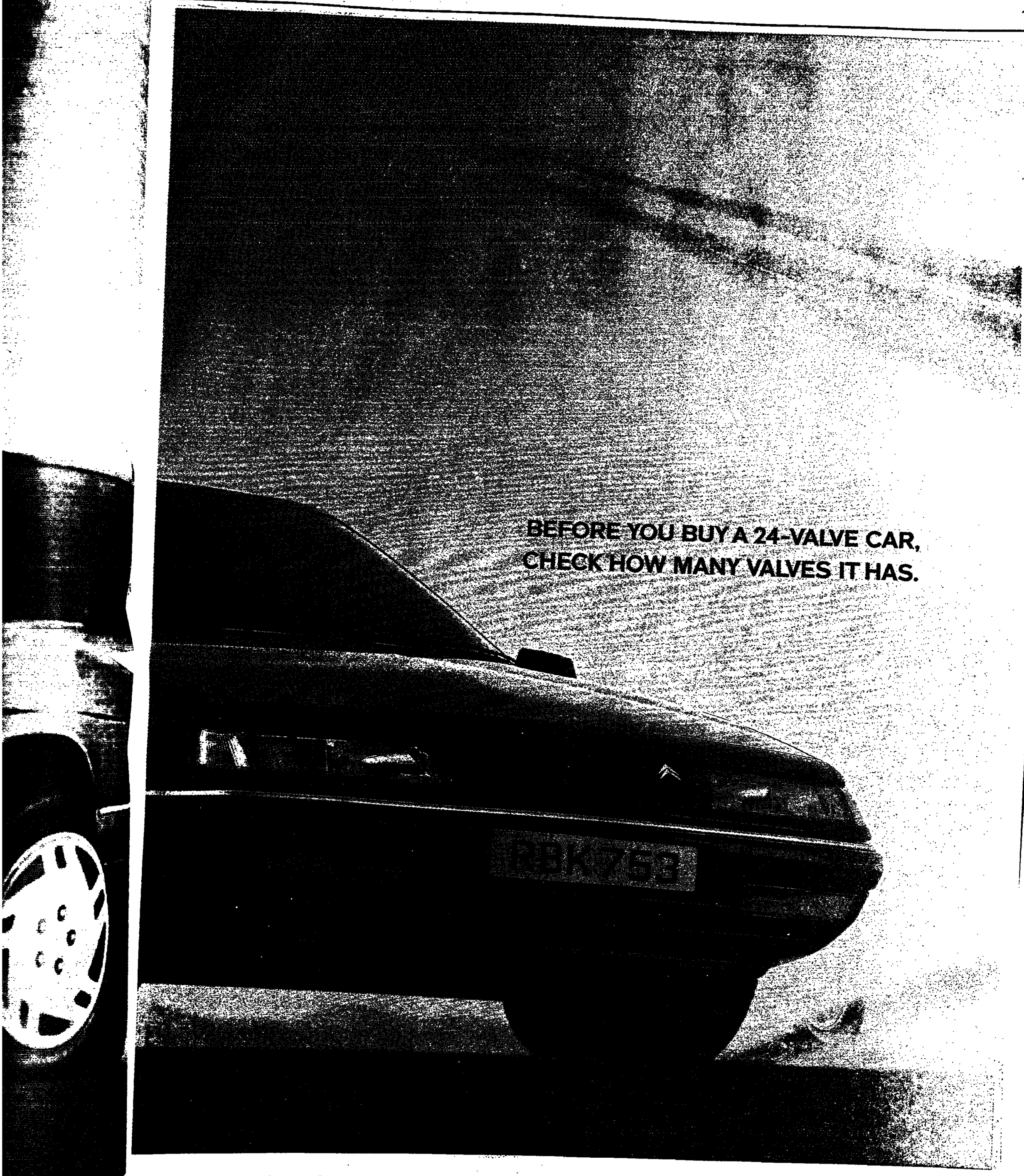
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Warm relations between German and British leaders promise progress at summit

Major and Kohl seek shared view of Europe

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

IN WHAT a senior diplomat here described as a demonstration of warmth, John Major and Helmut Kohl meet today for the 21st Anglo-German summit since World War II to set detailed agenda which underlines how well the leadership of the two countries is getting along these days.

In spite of Margaret Thatcher's eve-of-summit warning from America that Germany threatened to dominate Europe, her successor is to explore today how far the two countries can follow the path towards European union together. The Gulf conflict showed Germany that Britain does have a leadership role in Europe and that unity is not possible without a British contribution. While there is no thought of replacing Germany's close relationship with France by one with Britain, Germans feel that the three countries form a natural troika, in which Britain under Mrs Thatcher lacked its rightful place.

With Mr Major striking up such a good personal relationship with Herr Kohl, there is already talk in official circles of rapid progress towards a Europe of the future in which all three countries share the responsibility for leadership. On political unity, including matters of security and defence, there is a growing consensus between Britain and Germany that some kind of ad hoc arrangement is possible. On a common foreign policy, Britain has always been among the strongest supporters of developing political co-operation in the European Community.

Britain and Germany are ready to participate fully in a well-equipped rapid-response force to defend European security, but both sides recognise that not all countries would be prepared to commit forces to every conflict.

Britain, which resents any intrusions on its sovereignty, will look for support in this from Germany, which as a federal state is used to different parts of the country responding differently to the same problem.

Both countries accept, however, that there must be a more distinctive European stand on important international issues, as the Gulf conflict showed.

Germany sees the creation of a European rapid-response force as an important way of strengthening the European contribution to Nato and of soothing American concerns about burden-sharing. The defence ministry expects American forces in Europe to be progressively cut back to about 40,000 from present agreed levels of about 200,000, leaving a much greater burden on Europe for its own defence.

Officials say the idea of using the Western European Union as a bridge between the EC and Nato is good since it opens the way for France to bring its troops into a common command structure.

The convergence of British and German views will be particularly clear on the aftermath of the Gulf war. Both countries are anxious to ensure that a multinational conference on Middle East peace is prepared by a proper round of bilateral talks between the countries involved. On the question of future arms supplies to the region, there is not so much convergence, not because the two countries do not agree on the strictest possible controls, but because Britain believes they will be more difficult to monitor than Germany does.

On economic and monetary union, there is much talk of convergence of views, with the Bundesbank applying the brakes to the introduction of a common currency.

This convergence, however, is on a practical rather than a philosophical level. The German government is firmly committed to the eventual introduction of a system which covers the entire community and Britain is not.

At present, the way ahead looks the same to both countries. Both see economic convergence as a prerequisite of any eventual union. Germany is increasingly conscious that it must not rush into a system which would endanger its own economy.

The Bundesbank, which was overruled over the way monetary union between the two Germanies was rushed into force, has an even stronger voice than before now that its gloomiest predictions about the collapse of eastern Germany are coming true.

Although, officially, the British idea of a hard ecu is not accepted, there is growing support for it as a way out of the problem of moving ahead without undermining the strength of the mark.





Summer and winter: John Major and Helmut Kohl beaming last month, left, at their first meeting; relations between Margaret Thatcher and Herr Kohl were not so genial

Friction shows in Paris-Bonn ties

From JOHN PHILIPS IN PARIS

AS BRITAIN and Germany hold their meeting today, it is acknowledged that there is friction in Franco-German relations, including the question of European representation at the United Nations Security Council, but not enough to damage the Franco-German axis within the European Community.

The decision in 1988 to form a largely symbolic joint Franco-German brigade has helped to include Germany in ideas on European defence. President Mitterrand would like to extend the idea of defence co-operation and form a European "rapid reaction force". Forging a common European defence policy is seen in Paris as a logical step and a way of preserving good relations with Bonn.

Pierre Bérégevoy, the French finance minister, said after a meeting of the Franco-German economic and financial council last week that the two countries had no fundamental disagreement over European economic and monetary union. They appeared to have gone some way to overcoming differences on the goal of a common currency managed by an independent European central bank.

Yet Bonn is known to be unhappy about the French idea for a "European economic government" to balance the power of the European central bank. Friction increased when Willy Brant, the former West German chancellor, said that Bonn should be represeated on the UN Security Council, perhaps on a rotating basis with other EC countries. It also was suggested in Bonn that France and perhaps Britain could use their seats to represent the European Community.

Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, replied by recalling that after the second world war France and Britain were "victorious powers". M Dumas acknowledged that Germany and Italy "certainly are democracies today . . . but is this sufficient for a retroactive reading [of history]?"

During the Gulf conflict some French politicians criticised Germany for not doing more to contribute to the anti-Iraq coalition. Roger Fouroux, the industry minister, said. "It would be a shame if Germany becomes a big Switzerland and does not interest itself in world problems." But a senior political source in Paris disagreed. "It would have been worrying if Germany had wanted to make a bigger military contribution to the alliance," he said.

France and Germany have too much at stake to call into question their close relations within the EC, but France, is watching Germany lest reunification weaken its European resolve.

Rocard reassures America on Nato

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN WASHINGTON

ON HIS first visit to the United States since taking office nearly three years ago, Michel Rocard, the French prime minister, reassured Americans yesterday that proposals for a united European Community defence policy were not directed against Nato.

"I am well aware of American concerns on this subject," he said in a speech to the Franco-American Foundation. "They fear that the indubitable gains derived from more than 40 years of Atlantic solidarity can suddenly be jettisoned. That is neither the aim nor the issue of a common European foreign and security policy."

The 12 governments of the EC are considering bringing the Western European Union defence organisation under its umbrella. M Rocard said practical ways to tie a European defence policy with Nato must now be considered. He endorsed what he called general and concerted disarmament in the Middle East, for which America is pressing, but only after the region has worked out a security framework. "Insofar as we are concerned, we shall take care to bring the flow of our arms supplies and military co-operation more effectively into harmony with the objectives thus defined," he said.

France, like America and others, sold Iraq material that helped it build its military might. "Who cannot see that the proliferation of weapons is a factor of crisis, or that certain commonplace civilian technologies can serve aggressive military designs?" M Rocard asked. He also asked the international community to tackle the Palestinian problem. "What kind of peace can we hope to build unless we recognise their right as a people to an identity, a homeland and a state of their own?"



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Disgruntled Albanian refugees sail home

From ANDREW McEWEN IN BRINDISI

THE Italian authorities last night allowed an Albanian ship with 2,000 disillusioned refugees to leave the southern Italian port of Brindisi to return home four days after their arrival.

The decision came after a hunger strike by hundreds of women on board in protest against the refusal of the port authorities to let the ship leave because it did not meet Italian standards. The refugees' decision to return came after a warning by the Italian government that most of them would be sent home unless they could show that they had fled to Italy to escape persecution.

Volunteers from the medical charity, Misericordia di Aradeo, said many of the women on board and their children were suffering from scabies or dysentery but had refused treatment because they were afraid the ship might sail without them.

Albanians crowding the decks of the freighter, Tirana, shouted slogans and cheered as the vessel set sail. But most of the 19,275 refugees who have arrived here continued to demand to be allowed to stay and were receiving support from local people. The government came under attack from the mayor of Brindisi, voluntary organisations and the Italian media for its slow response to the problem.

Amid the confusion, men and women separated from their partners hunted desperately for each other in the 38 schools commandeered as temporary housing. Yuri Chindoli, aged 33, a car mechanic from Durres, was turned back when he tried to board the Tirana to search for his wife Myzyin and their children Denis, aged 7, and Gledjon, aged 4. Police said there was a risk of infection after four days without sanitation on board.

Hungry Albanian men tried to force their way into the humble quarters of the Sisters of St Vincenzo, where nuns and volunteers have set up a feeding and clothing station. After glimpsing a few loaves in a basket, dozens attempted to force the door but were driven back by volunteers.

Marinella de Vita, one of the volunteers, stood amid a mound of plastic bags of clothing given by local people. "We feel completely betrayed by the government. They have done nothing to help in this tragic situation. We have fed thousands of people, but all the food came from the people of Brindisi, not from the government," she said.

The first government help arrived on Saturday night when the army and civil protection ministry began providing meals, and more buses were made available to clear thousands of men still sleeping under plastic sheets three days after their arrival. But the government help came only after bitter criticism. Vito Lattanzio, the civil protection minister, stormed out of a press conference after facing hostile questions from angry reporters. A local newspaper called for his dismissal yesterday, while Pino Marchionna, the mayor of Brindisi, said he was still waiting for an explanation for the delay.

Signor Lattanzio replied that he had been put in charge of a special commission only on Friday. The Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, also criticised the government's response yesterday, while the Pope, in a Sunday address, said: "Nobody can remain indifferent."

Giulio Andreotti, the prime minister, also faced hostile questions on Saturday. He replied: "Why doesn't every well-off family adopt a group of Albanians? I am ready to be the first."

The bitterness was shared by many of the police attempting to control the crowds. Superintendent Vincenzo Renna of the frontier police stood at the entrance of the port of Brindisi on Saturday surveying a scene of utter misery. Thousands of men in filthy clothes tried to wash under taps but, on ground covered in litter, hygiene was impossible.

"Rome has done practically nothing for us," Signor Renna said. "We even feel ashamed to eat in front of these people when they have nothing."

● **Opposition protest:** Achille Occhetto, secretary of the opposition, former communists PDS party, said yesterday: "Italy should be ashamed of itself for the insensitivity and incompetence demonstrated by the government in facing the drama of the Albanian refugees" (Paul Bompard writes). Leaders of coalition parties also criticised government measures or the lack of them.



Homeward bound: some of about 2,000 refugees celebrating on the Brindisi quayside yesterday, in front of the freighter Tirana, after they were told they could return to Albania. Their departure had been delayed when Italian port authorities refused to let the vessel leave

Three feared dead on ship

From REUTER IN VIENNA

AT least three Albanians were killed when troops stormed a ship crammed with refugees trying to flee to Italy, an opposition party spokesman said yesterday.

Genc Pollo, of Albania's opposition Democratic Party, said the three died when troops with guns and tear gas boarded the ship stranded in Durres, the country's main port, on Saturday.

"It's reported that two men and a two-year-old child choked on tear gas and an 18-year-old girl was seriously wounded and perhaps has died," Mr Pollo said by telephone from Tirana. His report could not be confirmed immediately.

The official news agency, ATA, said on Saturday that 10 people were injured after the ship was cleared with the "energetic interference of the forces of order". Mr Pollo said many more could have been injured on the overcrowded boat.

● **BRUSSELS:** The European Community is providing £700,000 of aid for Albanian refugees in Italy. The community announced the grant yesterday. It said the money would be spent on food and shelter for some of the 15,000 Albanians who have reached Brindisi and who have been quartered in squalid and inadequate conditions (George Brock writes).

The European Commission, the community's executive agency which is keen to expand its role in foreign policy, is privately critical of the long delays that have occurred both before Italian government aid reached Brindisi and before any Italian request for European Community assistance reached Brussels.

Lithuania takes pride in independence spirit

From ANATOL LIEVEN IN VILNIUS

A YEAR ago today the weather in Vilnius was cold and windy, and few people were on the streets. Outside the parliament, only a small crowd of enthusiasts gathered to celebrate the declaration of independence. The mood was quiet and rather apprehensive.

Today, many Lithuanians say that they expected to move faster towards real independence, especially in the fields of economic reform, negotiations with Moscow and foreign recognition. Others, however, said at the weekend that they were afraid of widespread Soviet repression, and were happy and surprised that Lithuania was still at least partially free.

Relaxation of tension here is repeatedly checked by Soviet brutality. Early on Saturday morning, Soviet soldiers, apparently on a drunken spree, stopped cars, beat up their occupants and fired into the air. This correspondent was punched in the face when he went to investigate.

Last week a bomb explosion outside a Soviet communist headquarters in Vilnius suggested that Soviet military and hardline communist elements are still active. Such blasts have been seen as "provocations".

There is deep pride here that Lithuania's will to be independent has survived every kind of pressure that these forces and the Soviet government have thrown at it. As in Latvia and Estonia, people feel that the overwhelming referendum vote for independence has made it impossible for the Soviet Union to claim even a shred of legitimacy for its rule in the region.

Three months ago it seemed that neither economic reform nor foreign links were getting anywhere and the government and national movement were deeply split and becoming unpopular. The Soviet brutalities in January improved the situation by greatly increasing Western contact with the Baltic republics.

The American State Department is now trying to keep a visiting diplomat in Vilnius at all times. Sweden is about to set up an "information office" in Vilnius in addition to its consulates in Riga and Tallinn, which serve Scandinavia as a whole. Scandinavia is leading the field in contacts with the Baltic republics and Iceland has recognised Lithuania diplomatically.

This is much less than some nationalists deceived themselves into expecting a year ago, but in the words of social democrat leader, Professor Kazimieras Antonavicius, "it is actually more than I had hoped for at this stage".

The Soviet repression also led to a rallying of the Lithuanian people around their parliament and the leadership of Vytautas Landsbergis, in spite of the way in which Kazimiera Prunskiene was forced to resign as prime minister in January, and the mysterious disappearance of her unknown replacement, Dr Albertas Simenens.

The biggest barrier to independence remains the integration of Lithuanian economy into that of the Soviet Union. The Soviet government can slow down calls for independence in all the Soviet republics simply by keeping the legal position unclear.



Landsbergis: repression has rallied people to him

Soviet coal miners poised for strike

From ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

BARRING last-minute talks, tens of thousands of Soviet miners in the Ukrainian Donbass coal field and throughout the Soviet Union are expected to begin an indefinite strike today.

The action was called after negotiations between strike leaders and government representatives in Moscow and Kiev broke down over miners' demands for more than a doubling of their wages. Balloting was being carried out yesterday at the 250 pits in the region to test support for the strike. Throughout the republic, 40 pits have been shut for more than a week after some miners decided to continue with the one-day strike on March 1.

The miners are now demanding political changes, including the resignation of President Gorbachev and independence for the Ukraine. Yuri Boldyrev, the strike leader, said: "There is deadlock between the miners and the government, and neither side wants to lose face. We are worried about the situation and the government is scared of the miners. If the government had been willing to talk, it would have done so by now." The success of the indefinite strike depends on whether the region's 210 pits working join those taking industrial action.

● **Treaty rally:** Up to 7,000 people attended a demonstration organised here yesterday to campaign against the new union treaty.

Moscow protest, page 1

Black township clashes kill 26

From RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

THE death toll was rising by the hour in Alexandra township on the northern edge of Johannesburg yesterday, where fighting has erupted between supporters of the African National Congress and the Zulu Inkatha movement.

At least 26 people have been killed and more than 50 injured in the worst outbreak of violence since Nelson Mandela and Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi signed a fragile peace accord five weeks ago.

Yesterday police and troops ringed a Zulu hostel with razor-wire to prevent the residents from getting out and attackers from getting in. ANC supporters, mostly Xhosa-speaking migrant workers massed in a soccer stadium.

As security forces in armoured personnel carriers patrolled the streets, they came across more dead and injured. Most victims had been hacked with pangas (machetes) or shot. At least one man was "necklaced" – burnt to death with a petrol-filled tyre around his neck. Hundreds of terrified, sobbing women and children were seeking refuge in police stations, churches and clinics.

Alexandra is one of the oldest, most dilapidated and smallest townships in the Johannesburg area. It is considered to be one place where there is a community spirit and during the past 15 years has escaped much of the violence that has swept the country. When it has flared up in Alexandra, it has been particularly gruesome and bloody, as the current battles, which began on Friday night, indicate.

Both sides blamed each other for starting it. Winnie Mandela, the wife of Nelson Mandela, the deputy president of the ANC, visited the township to appeal for peace with Moses Mayekiso, an Alexandra civic leader. Yesterday security forces sealed entrances to the township and prevented journalists from going in.

● **SYDNEY:** Socialist party leaders from almost 50 nations said yesterday that sanctions against South Africa should not be lifted until apartheid has been dismantled completely. *(Reuter)*

Gandhi asks for election in May

Delhi – Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) party ended days of manoeuvring by Indian politicians, aimed at staving off a general election, by announcing yesterday that it had formally requested polls in May.

Delhi had been buzzing with intrigue since Chandra Shekhar, the prime minister, resigned last week, telling President Venkataraman that he could not form a stable government from a faction-ridden parliament.

"The Congress has decided that going back to people for a fresh mandate is the only right course," P. V. Narasimha Rao, a senior Congress (I) leader, told a news conference. *(Reuter)*

League recovers

Dhaka – The Bangladesh Nationalist party, which won 138 of 330 seats in last month's elections, lost all four constituencies where repolling was held at the weekend, its rival, the Awami League, won three, taking its total to 100.

Papandreou trial

Athens – Andreas Papandreou, the former Greek prime minister, goes on trial today on charges of accepting bribes in a multi-million dollar scandal which brought down his government.

Language plea

Bucharest – To defuse ethnic tension Dimiter Popov, the Bulgarian prime minister, has appealed to nationalists to end their protest against allowing Turkish be taught as an "experiment" to some Turkish pupils in state schools.

Tibetan plea

Delhi – The Dalai Lama, speaking on the 32nd anniversary of Tibet's abortive uprising against Chinese rule, urged Asian leaders to help to create a new union of democratic states that would include China and Tibet. *(Reuter)*

Blow to unity

Ottawa – The ruling Liberal party of Quebec province has delivered a blow to Canada's national unity by adopting a report urging a wholesale transfer of powers from the federal government to the province.

Hour of the generals in Belgrade

By ROGER BOYES

THE tanks and armoured cars prowling through the heart of Belgrade made a telling point about the future of Yugoslavia: now is the hour of the generals.

The high command of the Yugoslav People's Army, dominated by Serbs, appears to be pressing for a nationwide state of emergency. Only this, the generals argue, can preserve the creaking multi-national federation that is Yugoslavia.

Only the army can guarantee the political survival of Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, who has staked his future on an ambitious if flawed vision of a Grand Serbia. Mr Milosevic's wife, Mirijana, has been building links between the Serbian Communist party and the federal general staff, most of whom are socialists.

This political coalition is keeping Mr Milosevic in power in spite of his chronic mismanagement of the economy. Through the army, Mr Milosevic has challenged the separatist governments of Slovenia and Croatia: the army makes the most threatening noises about persecuted Serbian minorities in the other Yugoslav republics. The army also remains one of the few effective federal institutions in Yugoslavia.



Milosevic: staking his future on Grand Serbia

Under Marshal Josip Broz Tito it was heaped with glory since its effectiveness was the main deterrent to a Soviet invasion. But gradually this role withered away. In 1968, when Warsaw Pact troops occupied Czechoslovakia, the Yugoslav army massed its divisions in the northwest, not on the eastern frontier. Increasingly, the army has become a domestic political player. Tito had army support when he crushed the Croat reform movement in 1971.

Although the Slovene and Croat governments are developing independent defence forces, they are no match for the federal army. The two republics have reduced by a third their contribution to the federal defence budget that pays for the Yugoslav army. But the army controls the defence industry; it bristles with weaponry and has become a highly developed internal police force.

The force's loyalty to a Serb-dominated Yugoslav state is beyond question. About 70 per cent of its officers are ethnic Serbs or Montenegrins. The recruits are drawn from all ethnic groups, including Croats, Albanians, Bosnian Muslims and Macedonians, and their loyalty, if a state of emergency were declared, would be difficult to predict. This puts limits on the army's powers of intervention.

Over the past two years even the most insignificant military manoeuvres have been interpreted as a sign that the Yugoslav People's Army is preparing for some form of martial law. Now, as the rule of Mr Milosevic is rocked, the Cassandras may well be proved right.

Tight security, page 20

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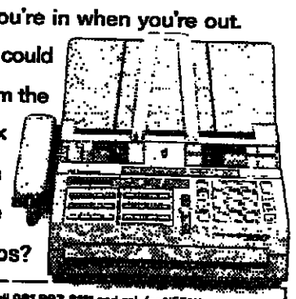
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BAKER'S TOUR

Arabs endorse US peace plan for the Middle East

By Our Foreign Staff

FOREIGN ministers of eight Arab nations which supported America in the Gulf war endorsed the broad aims of a four-point Middle East peace initiative presented to them yesterday by James Baker, the US Secretary of State.

But differences remained with the United States, especially over the Arab-Israeli conflict. "We support this initiative," Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi foreign minister, told reporters after two hours of talks.

A senior American official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said a communique to be released later would reflect agreement on the basic American outline of postwar challenges. Mr Baker carried broadly drawn proposals aimed at establishing a new regional security arrangement, encouraging economic co-operation, halting arms proliferation and resolving disputes between the Arabs and Israel. In public, Mr Baker has declined to go into detail about White House aims, saying he wants to consult regional allies first.

He reported a "convergence of views with respect to questions of regional security ... the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction [and] economic co-operation". He suggested, however, that the Arabs and the Americans were less in accord on how to work for Arab-Israeli peace. He said only that they had agreed on "the importance of addressing, in the aftermath of this significant change in the region that results from the end of this war, the Arab-Israeli conflict".

The foreign ministers at the meeting, in addition to Prince Saud, represented Egypt and Syria and the Gulf states of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Farouk al-Sharaa, the Syrian foreign minister, said after the talks that the Arabs were insisting on an international peace conference to deal with the Arab-Israeli conflict. "Our objective is to convene an international conference under UN auspices. There is a consensus among the eight Arab countries on this issue, and this peace conference can lead to a comprehensive and just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict," he said. Israel has long rejected such an approach and America has been ambiguous, saying only that an international conference at the appropriate time could be useful.

● LONDON: Fresh efforts to secure the release of British hostages in Lebanon will be made by Douglas Hogg, the junior Foreign Office minister, who began a five-day visit to the Middle East yesterday (Michael Binyon writes).

He flew to Amman for talks today with Jordanian leaders, and will go to Damascus tomorrow, making the first ministerial visit to Syria since diplomatic relations were resumed in November. In talks with Farouk al-Sharaa, the Syrian foreign minister, he will urge Syria to do all it can to persuade Hezbollah to free the hostages.

Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 12

ISRAEL

Bush prepared to apply pressure

From Our Own Correspondent in Washington

IN MORE than two years as secretary of state, James Baker has made many visits to the Middle East but until today he had never visited Israel, supposedly his country's closest ally in the region.

That omission speaks volumes about the coolness of US-Israeli relations during the Bush administration. It would be understandable if President Bush's new pledge to end the Arab-Israeli conflict caused tremors within the government of Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister. The sense in Washington is that this administration is now prepared to lean heavily on the tiny nation the US has so long armed, protected and financed.

Mr Bush and Mr Baker came to office in January 1989 aware that they had won only 29 per cent of the Jewish vote, and therefore had little need of it, and with a feeling that the Reagan administration had spent eight years mollifying Israel instead of criticising its settlement of the occupied territories and its refusal to address the Palestinian issue.

In an early speech, Mr Baker urged Israel to "lay aside once and for all the unrealistic vision of a Greater Israel". After that, a series of semi-public disputes brought US-Israeli relations to perhaps their lowest ebb.

Relations were patched up when Mr Shamir recently visited Washington, and the administration was grateful for Israel's restraint in the face of Iraq's missile attacks. But Mr Shamir should now expect Washington to press hard for the compromises he has so far rejected out of hand.

Mr Bush made his intentions clear in last week's address to Congress. "By now it should be plain to all parties that peacemaking in the Middle East requires compromise," he declared. That peace would be based on territory for peace, an anathema to Mr Shamir, but elaborated to provide for Israel's security and recognition for Palestinian rights.



Weather eye: a Kuwaiti soldier, atop a mosque in Kuwait City, guards the Diwan palace where James Baker and Crown Prince Saad al-Sabah met at the weekend

Israelis killed as 'message'

From A Correspondent in Jerusalem

A PALESTINIAN man wielding a butcher's knife fatally stabbed three Jewish women yesterday and wounded a fourth in one of the worst incidents of sectarian violence in the past year.

The stabbings occurred on the eve of a three-day visit to Israel by James Baker, the American Secretary of State, and police quoted the assailant as saying the attack was intended as "a message for Baker".

The incident came despite increased security in Jerusalem in anticipation of Mr Baker's visit. An additional 600 police have been deployed in the city, and 900 are on call to handle disturbances. In addition, army roadblocks have turned back most Palestinians from the occupied West Bank or Gaza Strip who tried to enter Israel.

Schwarzkopf's base hopes for visit by Queen

From Martin Fletcher in Washington

IF, AS she doubtless does, the Queen feels a profound sense of gratitude to General Norman Schwarzkopf, the commander of Operation Desert Storm and de facto commander of the 40,000 British forces in the Gulf, she will soon be able to express it to him personally.

In May she is making a state visit to Washington, her first in 15 years, and then travelling on to Florida and Texas. Her itinerary will take her from Miami, around the southern tip of Florida on board the royal yacht Britannia, to Tampa on that state's western coast.

Why she is going to Tampa has not yet been officially disclosed, but it is not hard to guess. Tampa is the site of the MacDill air force base, home of General Schwarzkopf's Central Command (Centcom) headquarters.

As titular head of the British armed forces, the Queen would doubtless want to set the seal on the American-led joint operation that led to the rout of the Iraqi army with so few allied casualties. There are even whispers that she might confer some honorary title on the man known variously as The Bear or Stormin' Norman.

A Centcom spokesman said he had no confirmation yet of a royal visit but he had heard rumours and agreed that it "would not be illogical to surmise" that the Queen would be coming. She would be given a fantastic welcome, he added, praising Britain's steadfast support over the past seven months.

Anglo-American co-operation in the Gulf is certain to be a strong theme during the Queen's three-day state visit to Washington. She is almost certain to meet General Colin Powell, chairman of the joint chiefs, probably at the White House state dinner, and she will lay the traditional wreath at Arlington Cemetery, where victims of the Gulf war have already been buried. Indeed, the entire royal visit will take place against the background of a postwar Anglo-American relationship which President Bush recently described as stronger than it has ever been. A *Washington Post* poll yesterday showed that 71 per cent of Americans had gained respect for Britain as a result of the war. No other coalition country came out so well.

● Honorary title: Were the Queen to knight General Schwarzkopf he would not, alas, be able to style himself Stormin' Sir Norman (Alan Hamilton writes). Ronald Reagan, Caspar Weinberger, the former defence secretary, and Richard Giordano, American head of the British industrial giant BOC, have all been knighted, but as they are not British citizens the awards remain honorary; they cannot use the knightly prefix.

Convoy takes aid to Iraq

Amman — A second Red Cross convoy of food, medicine and water treatment equipment has left Jordan for Iraq amid fears of widespread disease and hunger in the war-ravaged nation. It also carried 17 aid workers to try to help families separated by the Gulf conflict and look for people missing in Iraq and Kuwait. *(Reuter)*

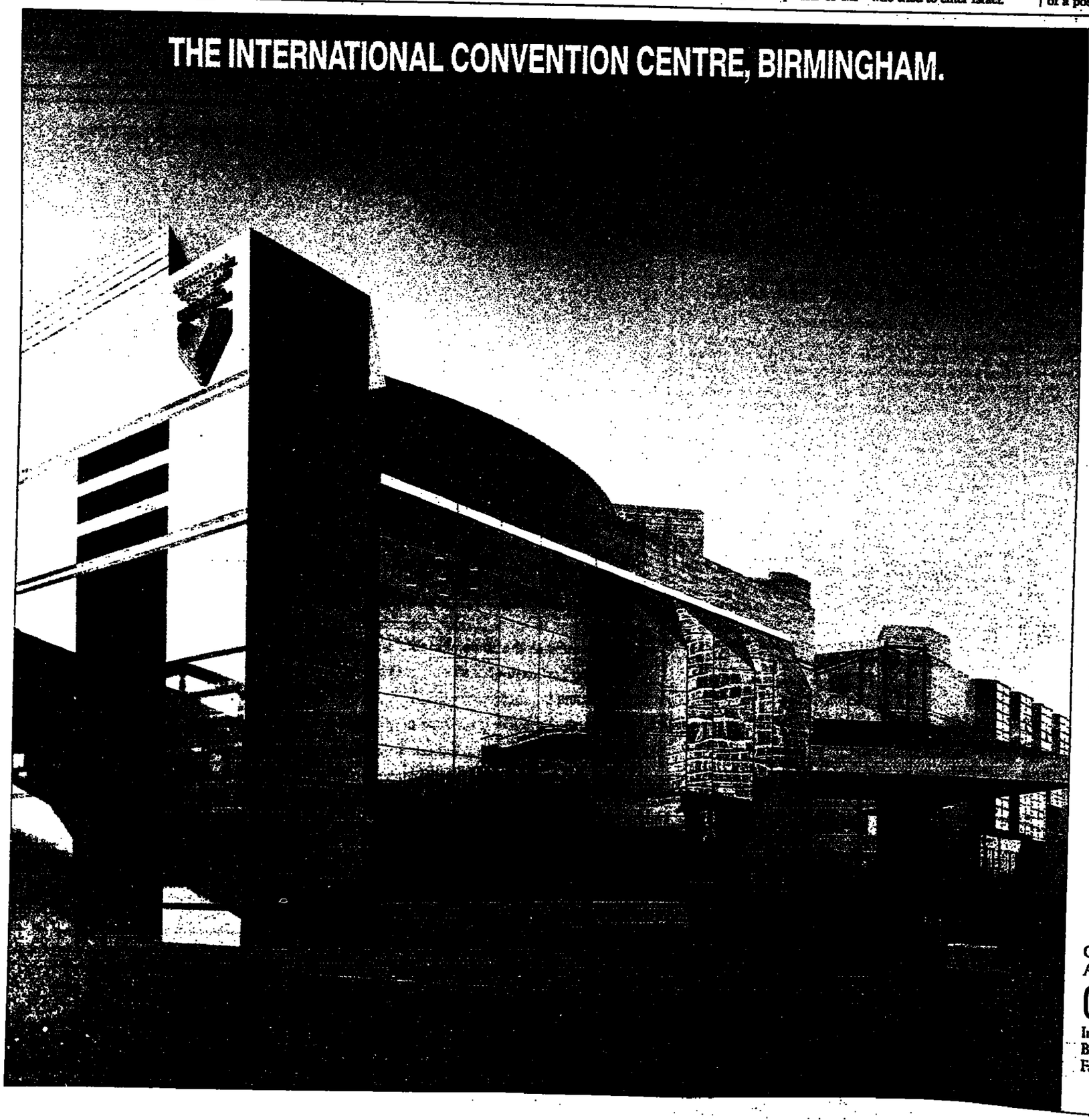
Egypt rewarded

Madrid — Spain is prepared to forgive at least a third of Egypt's 52.5-billion peseta (£290 million) debt in recognition of Cairo's role in the allied coalition, according to Spain's leading daily, *El Pais*. The newspaper said the American administration requested the gesture from Madrid. *(AP)*

Iran earthquake

Nicosia — An earthquake registering 5.2 on the Richter scale jolted Iran's main oil-producing province of Khuzestan but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, the Iranian news agency, Irna, said. The earthquake was centred near the town of Izeh. *(Reuter)*

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OPPOSITION TO SADDAM

Rebel Kurds claim they have taken six cities

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR AND ALI JABER IN BEIRUT

AS FIGHTING continued across Iraq, Kurdish guerrillas claimed yesterday they were advancing on Kirkuk, the centre of the Iraqi oil industry in the north, and said they had captured six cities from government forces.

Kurdish fighters had taken control of Koi Sanjaq and the district towns of Agjeler, Kifri, Bazyn, Shamshamal and Hanger. The Iraqi Kurdistan Front said 5,000 Iraqi soldiers had defected or surrendered in the past few days.

A spokesman in London said Kurdish forces had consolidated their hold over Sulaymaniyah, and were meeting little resistance from Iraqi troops. He said radio stations were appealing to Iraqi tank drivers to command captured tanks and armoured vehicles.

Heavy fighting was still reported in the south, where Shia militants and army deserters are fending off attacks by the Republican Guard and forces loyal to President Saddam Hussein. Refugees fleeing from Basra, Iraq's second city, spoke of a "real massacre", and said thousands had been killed. Houses had been flattened as government forces shelled the city indiscriminately.

Two Egyptian refugees from the region said supporters of Saddam were killing Egyptian men, women and children because of Egypt's participation in the coalition forces. They told the government-run Middle East News Agency that 20 Egyptians were tied to tanks and then killed by machinegun fire by civilian supporters of Saddam. One witness said the Iraqis had been killing Egyptians since the beginning of the ground offensive. "Any Egyptian on the street is shot," he said.

Opposition sources reported disturbances over the weekend in at least five low-income neighbourhoods in Baghdad, mainly populated by members of the Shia majority. However, Baghdad radio has given little indication of the revolt against Saddam. On Saturday it began broadcasting messages of support from Iraqi and Arab trade unions, and spoke of a "conspiracy hatched by the US imperialists and Zionists to agitate hooligans".

Iraqi newspapers said several Baath party and government officials were touring provincial cities to "speed up the process of extending public services to the people". Papers carry messages of support for Saddam from Kurdish commanders of battalions formed during the Iran-Iraq war from among pro-government Kurds.

Reports from Baghdad, where Western journalists were ordered out last week, said many shops were still closed, schools had not reopened, basic foodstuffs were still rationed and petrol was in short supply and selling on the black market at 100 times its official price. Rubbish was being burnt on the streets, and there were fears of epidemics because of broken sewage plants.

Oil fires threaten reserves

Kuwait — The hundreds of wellhead fires started by retreating Iraqi soldiers could damage permanently the oil reservoir beneath the desert.

Some of the 400 fires near Kuwait City are sending up columns of steam along with the thick, black clouds of burning crude, showing that water, which provides the pressure for the wells, is being sucked up through the oil. *(Reuter)*

Child casualties

Kuwait City — Some 60 handicapped children at a specialised institution died during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait because of a personnel shortage, Sanaa Badir al-Kharkawi, the clinic director said. One doctor and seven nurses were caring for around 180 children. When she asked for food for the children, the director said, Iraqi soldiers suggested they be killed by injection. *(AFP)*

Envoys return

Nicosia — Kuwait says that 18 embassies have reopened in its capital since fighting in the Gulf war ended. The Kuwaiti News Agency said its five fellow members of the Gulf Co-operation Council — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates — had reopened missions. Among others were the United States, Britain, France, Canada, Egypt and Yugoslavia, it said. *(Reuter)*

Ozal in Moscow

Ankara — President Ozal will discuss the Gulf situation and economic ties during a visit to the Soviet Union this week, the first by a Turkish head of state since 1969. Mr Ozal, who is due in America later this month, will meet President Gorbachev in Moscow today. *(Reuter)*

Mine explosion

Nicosia — Three children were maimed when a mine left over from the second world war exploded, the Libyan news agency Jana reported. *(Reuter)*



Saddam: supporters are killing Egyptians



Stating his case: Yassir Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, answering questions during a French television interview at his Tunis headquarters yesterday. Mr Arafat blamed Israel for the Gulf war and said Iraq's invasion of Kuwait had strengthened the Palestinian cause. The reason for his bandaged hand was not disclosed. The interview was conducted as the PLO gave a qualified welcome to an offer from James Baker, the American Secretary of State, to meet Palestinians in the occupied territories during his visit to Israel today (Penny Gibbins writes from Tunis). The reaction was given after a series of stormy meetings of the PLO leadership. Some members were encouraged by President Bush's statement that the Arab-Israeli conflict should be settled, but hardliners said anti-American feeling in the occupied territories would scotch any chance of success, especially after Mr Bush had ruled out talks with the PLO and criticised Mr Arafat's support of Iraq.

DESERT RATS

Home thoughts purge horrors of battlefield

FROM MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, IN KUWAIT

THERE are only two ways to leave a battlefield, as the victor going home and as the defeated in retreat. The contrast between the fate of the Iraqis and of the British yesterday could not have been more dramatic.

The first batch of British soldiers of the 7th Armoured Brigade were climbing into Hercules planes on a desert strip, to start the journey home. Just a few miles away on Mutla Ridge, thousands of Iraqi vehicles, armoured, soft-skinned and civilian, which were ambushed and destroyed by American bombers in the last 24 hours of the war, still lie in crumpled piles as far as one can see.

Brigadier Patrick Cordingley, commander of the 7th Armoured Brigade, the Desert Rats, admitted there was no rejoicing when he and his brigade surveyed Mutla Ridge, having fought their way across 189 miles of Iraqi and Kuwaiti territory.

"It was an appalling sight," he said. "We all felt that it had been a just war. The mayhem left behind by the Iraqis made us very angry. But it was distressing to see the scene at Mutla Ridge. When we arrived, we found many injured, including some young soldiers who had been tortured by their own people. I came across one young Iraqi soldier with his toes chopped off. He said Republican Guards did it to him."

But yesterday was not a day to mope about Mutla Ridge. Brigadier Cordingley's happy task was to see off many of his men as they queued with their kit. The desert strip had been bulldozed and rolled. Every time a Hercules landed, clouds of sand whirled into the air, covering the soldiers.

It will be six days before they arrive in Germany or Britain. First they have to be reunited with their equipment and go through all the bureaucratic procedures. The last men from the 7th Armoured Brigade will leave on March 18. The men of the 4th Armoured Brigade are due out by April 4. Brigadier Cordingley will leave later this week.

IRAQI DEFENCES

Poor fortifications expose idle boast

From MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, IN KUWAIT

A TOUR of Iraqi defences along the coast at Kuwait City exposes the sham of President Saddam Hussein's pledge never to give up Kuwait.

Except for a few fortified positions — concrete bunkers with proper accommodation, generators and electric plug points — the average Iraqi shelter was totally inadequate for fending off the coalition forces. Along the Kuwaiti seafront the trenches were no deeper than four feet. The living quarters closest to the trenches were tiny hovels with plywood roofs. Sleeping accommodation for two Iraqi sentries were dirty mattresses flung on to a threadbare carpet in a room eight-foot long, six-foot wide and four-foot high. The lack of any permanent infrastructure clearly showed this was an army in occupation waiting to leave.

The trenches behind the shoreline were an assortment of machinegun posts, but these were so poorly constructed that they could have been seized in a swift assault. Similar evidence of inadequate preparation was to be found in the villas overlooking the sea. Iraqi soldiers lived in conditions of squalor after converting previously elegant Kuwaiti homes into makeshift firing posts.

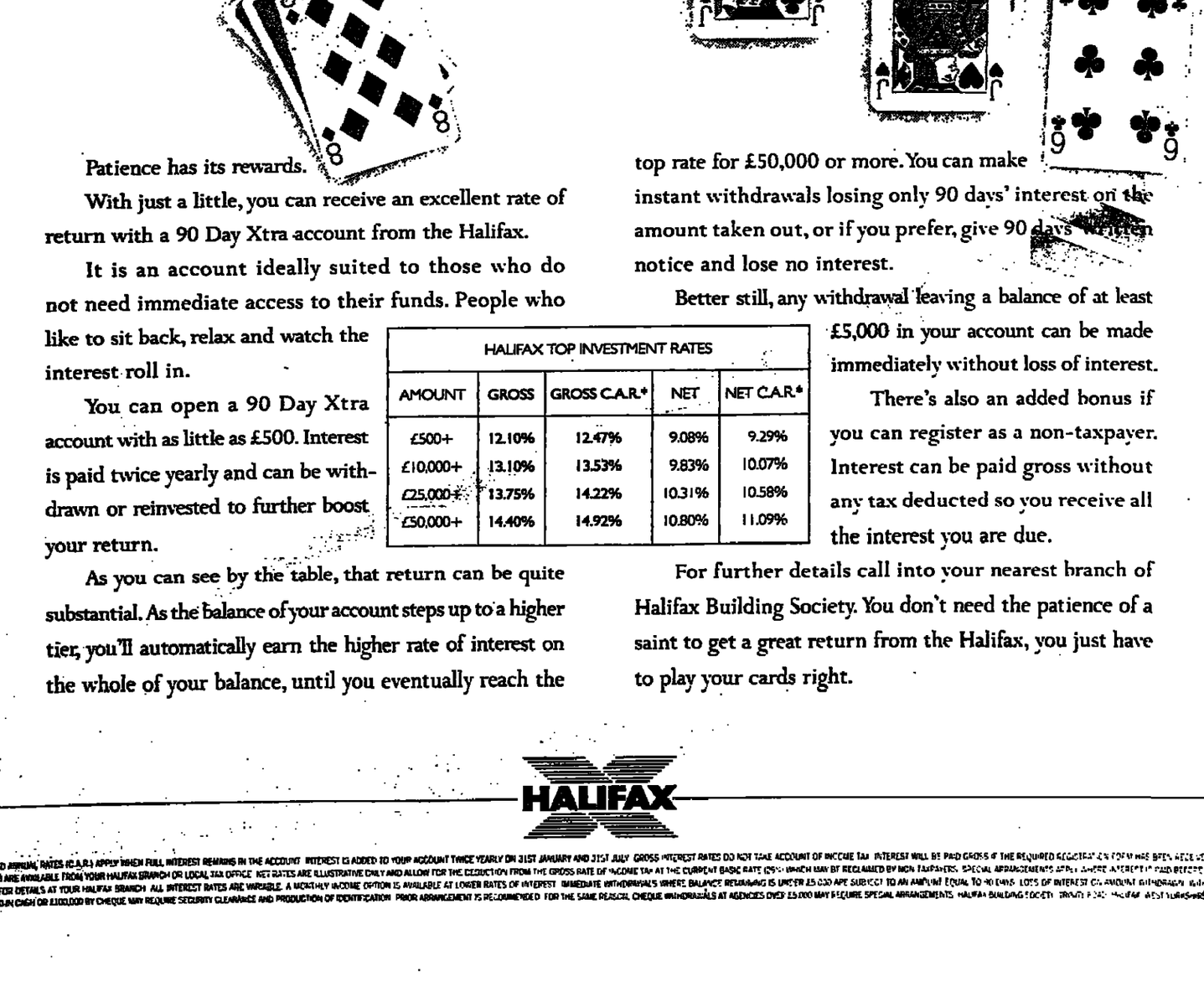
Even the sand-bagged fortifications on rooftops looked vulnerable. Breeze blocks partly protecting some windows seemed to have been put together by an apprentice bricklayer wearing a blindfold.

A visit to the trenches emphasises how ill-prepared the Iraqis were to face US marines in combat. Did they really think their breeze-block shelters would have stood up to an assault from 30,000 marines?

The mortar holding the breeze blocks together was so weak that a kick from a soft-leather shoe could part them. An anti-tank missile would have demolished the lot. The poor quality of the Iraqi defences were visible throughout Kuwait City. The overall impression was of an army that could not be bothered to dig in properly, either because they knew they could not win or because they hoped they would not need to fight.

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Mrs Thatcher's Passchendaele

Ronald Butt

Mrs Thatcher may not think so but the Conservative defeat in the Ribble Valley was a verdict on the mistakes of her government, preeminently the poll tax, for which John Major is being held accountable until he has a record of his own on which to be judged. That is what makes her remarks on American television so bizarre. "You expect your party to stay with you when the going gets tough," she said. "Some of them didn't. Absurd! They got scared. So be it." She clearly still finds it hard to see that there is more to political loyalty than Passchendaele-style obedience.

Successful politics, however, also requires leaders to listen and, over the poll tax, she refused to listen to the repeated warnings she was given from 1987 onwards. Hence Mr Major's present dilemma. The same is true of her attitude to Europe and what she calls its "domination by the Germans". Some of us (including I hope and believe Mr Major) are at least as keen as she is on preserving the sovereignty of our Parliament against encroaching Euro-federalism, but, subject to that, are no less keen on the maximum possible European unity of political action.

Mrs Thatcher serves her cause ill by her derisive remarks about Europe on the eve of Mr Major's visit to Germany and by her apparent challenge to his new understanding with the German chancellor in place of her own confrontational style.

At all events, the poll tax and Europe are the two reasons why Mr Major is in Downing Street and Mrs Thatcher is giving television interviews and lectures in America. It is also why Mr Major now has to absorb the lesson of Ribble Valley, a by-election which was virtually a single-issue campaign on the poll tax in a constituency hit particularly hard by it. The dangerous depth of feeling revealed is a warning that from now on Mr Major will be judged not on Mrs Thatcher's record but on his own. Mrs Thatcher sees a "tendency to undermine what I have achieved". Certainly her poll tax achievement (it was essentially a product of her personal will) has to be undone, which will not be easy without making new foes of those who gained from its introduction.

To keep the poll tax and doll it up in some way would doom the government. If there is a hybrid of property tax and poll tax, we shall have the worst of both worlds, with two systems to run expensively. A local property tax may be the best answer, but with such services as education and the police funded centrally.

If the government now finds a potentially acceptable solution, time will still be needed for voters to understand its practical impact on themselves. For the Tories to go to the country on a few poll tax generalities, details to be supplied later, will not do. That is one reason a June election would be dangerous, even though the opinion polls, which are normally a better guide to general election voting intentions, contradict the Ribble Valley result by putting the Tories ahead of Labour. That Labour and its leader are lagging so badly is no comfort for Mr Major. This merely signifies that the scene is set for a new phase of three-party politics. That may be the true lesson of Ribble Valley, and it is one for the Tories to fear.

It would be too sanguine to draw comfort from the fact that many seats lost dramatically in by-elections return to their usual allegiance in general elections. Most do, but many do not. Even if the Liberals in Ribble Valley were no more than a dustbin for protest votes, as Mr Major put it, they may be more than that if alienated Tory voters once more turn to the third party in large numbers.

In February 1974, 19 per cent of British voters (24 per cent in England, where there were no Nationalists to take votes) supported the Liberals because they wished to say goodbye to Edward Heath's government and had no trust in the Labour party (which was moving to the left). The Liberals won only 14 seats for their six million votes, but the parliament was effectively hung, and Labour was able to edge into power with only four more seats than the Tories.

Again, the Liberal and Social Democratic Alliance, which secured 23 per cent of the vote in the 1987 general election had run at about 30 per cent for the better part of a year beforehand, and had been between 20 and 30 per cent for virtually all the preceding parliament. For a time there was a three-party political structure from which the Tories escaped to victory only because a period of economic prosperity had begun and because Labour was deeply distrusted.

> "Her poll tax achievement has to be undone: not easy without making new foes of those who gained from its introduction"

But no economic revival has yet started, and Mr Major needs time for this to register. As for Labour, it is now distrusted not so much because of its left-wingers as because it is seen as a dull and unconvincing party, lacking a theme and still likely to be a worse economic performer than the Tories. Though it has shed most of its unpopular socialist commitments, it has nothing comparable to either the promise of social improvement with which Attlee won in 1945 or the mirage of prosperity through agreed planning with which Wilson captured the imagination of so many middle class people in 1964.

Labour now offers no more than an echo of the Tories' attachment to market principles, with a vague commitment to industrial interventionism and to higher public spending. But for all its glossy documents, how many ordinary voters could say clearly what Labour is supposed to be about, as they could in Harold Wilson's day?

If there is a shift of votes from the Tories, many might go not to Labour but to the Liberals, whose leader Paddy Ashdown is more popular than Mr Kinnock and which is now a single united party as the Alliance was not. With the Liberals climbing in the opinion polls and the two big parties vulnerable, the warning from Ribble Valley is one Mr Major cannot ignore.

Conor Cruise O'Brien suggests that Israel may be ready to make peace with Syria

Hope on the road to Damascus

James Baker, the American Secretary of State, arrives in Israel today for the most important discussions of his Middle East tour so far. From them a new Camp David agreement may begin to take shape. The original Camp David talks between America, Israel and Egypt, led to the 1979 peace treaty between Egypt and Israel which still endures. The new Camp David partners would be America, Israel and Syria, and they too could achieve a peace treaty, this time between Israel and Syria.

As yet there is little talk of Syria in discussions about the Middle East. Over the weekend American commentators were pinning their hopes to the idea that Saudi Arabia would play a key role in ending the Arab-Israeli conflict. This is unrealistic. Saudi Arabia has little to gain and much to lose by becoming involved in an agreement over Israel, which would be regarded by many Arabs as a betrayal. The Saudis now need to reburnish their cherished reputation for Islamic purity, a reputation somewhat tarnished by their recent alliance with the infidels. They still need the American infidels, but they do not need to have anything to do with Israel.

Syria, on the other hand, has little to lose and much to gain by taking a leading part in an Arab-Israeli peace process. Until recently, Syria's proclaimed policy was based on confrontation with Israel, though outright war was meant to be postponed until, with the aid of the Soviet Union, it attained "strategic parity" with Israel. But now the Arab world can see that there is only one superpower, America, and the government of President Assad, with a sinister, terrorist-sponsoring past to live down, needs to improve his country's relations with it.

There are also specific territorial gains to be made by Syria. The drive towards the original Camp David was supplied by Anwar Sadat's need to regain lost national territory in Sinai. Syria, too, has lost territory to recover: the Golan Heights.

On Israel's side, Yitzhak Shamir has just reiterated his refusal to return the Golan Heights; meaning no deal with Syria. Yet pressures similar to those that took Israel into the first Camp David are likely to carry it into a new one. Menachem Begin took the difficult and dangerous decision to relinquish Sinai, in order to relieve the pressure on him to give up the West Bank. Like Mr Shamir today, he was determined never to so. Yet the pressure in relation to the West Bank is now formidable. When Mr Bush referred in his programme for the Middle East to the surrender of territory in exchange for peace, it was assumed that he had the West Bank primarily in mind. Mr Shamir cannot give ground — either metaphorically or literally — here, but he has to give ground somewhere or risk a rupture with the United States. So he has to consider the Golan Heights, as Begin had to consider Sinai.

There would have to be preconditions on Israel's side, of course. Syria would have to agree not to give asylum to terrorist organisations and never to allow any part of its territory to be used as a base for fedayeen attacks on Israel; it would also have to accept a demilitarised zone on the Golan Heights.

If these preconditions were accepted, a deal with Syria could be sold by Mr Shamir to the Israeli public, as the deal with Egypt was sold. Assuming that Syria held to its bargain, Israel would for the first time have achieved secure frontiers and peace with all the neighbouring Arab states.

The Palestinian question would remain, and will remain indefinitely in one form or another. But if none of the neighbouring states were harbouring fedayeen, or fanning intifada, then leaders on the West Bank and in Gaza would have strong reasons to forget the discredited Palestine Liberation Organisation and see whether anything could be made of Israel's offers of autonomy and elections.

Before that can happen peace with Syria must be achieved. America has strong incentives to move that way if potential regional partners are willing. For Syria, as well as Egypt, to drop the Soviet Union and come to terms with America and Israel would be an important component in a Pax Americana. There are many obstacles on the way, but if Mr Baker's diplomatic exertions are to lead to substantial results in Arab-Israeli relations, the most hopeful road is the road to Damascus.

Cowed for too long

Them as lives longest will see the most; so runs the ancient wisdom, and who am I to challenge it?

When I was a boy, it was impressed upon me that if I wanted to live long and remain healthy, the surest way to achieve such a goal was to drink milk. Indeed, at my public school the day started with an immense bowl of it, the drinking of it compulsory. A few years later, there was a huge national drive to persuade people to Drink More Milk.

More years passed, and all of a sudden there came a ukase, from what source I never knew, which formally denounced the taking of the tiniest spoonful of the stuff, on pain of certain death from a wide variety of incurable diseases, including baldness, constipation, phossy jaw, double vision, bandy legs and — above all — heart failure. Milk, so far from being the health-giving nectar it had been thought, was the silent white killer. The explanation was that it was full of of something called "saturated fat", which would damage the heart of Ajax himself. Not content with this preposterous claim about milk, the charlatans who were putting about the nonsense added many other items of a sensible, balanced and pleasurable diet to the danger list; in no time, they had fingered as fatally saturated with fat practically everything that anyone would actually want to eat.

Such was the gullibility of the public when faced by men who threatened them with hideous diseases, that nobody stopped to think where this information came from, let alone challenge it. Eating saturated fat was the surest form of suicide, and it was lurking everywhere, particularly in milk and — for some reason — fatty fish.

From then on, the catalogue of poisons, most of them attributed to saturated fat, has continued to grow; dairy products of all kinds, beef (particularly in the form of the hamburger), chocolate, white bread, spirits, sugar, champagne, all fried food, ham, eggs, beer — what, will the line stretch out to the crack of doom?

If some people have their way, it will. But the massed ranks of the Army of the Turned Worm have come in their numbers to raise the siege. A salute of 100 guns, please, for Dr Peter Elwood; the statue can wait. For he refused to accept the received wisdom without testing it, and the test he devised should put to shame those who, over the years, went on mouthing the comminations against the list of wholly imaginary dangers. He, like all of us, had constantly heard that milk and its cousins were bad for the heart. And with three of the shortest words in the language, he brought the bogus claim to the ground: the words he used were, of course, "Let us see".



The scientists who decreed that dairy produce is bad for us have been debunked, says Bernard Levin

He saw; nay, he came and saw and conquered. For 10 years he monitored an immense array of men — 4,200 of them — whom he persuaded to record their dietary habits in the greatest detail, together with the state of their health. The 10 years (even Jacob had to serve Laban for no more than seven) were up a week or two ago, and the returning officer has certified the ballots. In Dr Elwood's monster sample, 10 per cent of those who did not drink any milk at all had heart attacks; of those who drank more than a pint a day, only 1.2 per cent had heart attacks.

Wait; it gets better. The spread between the two extremes (more than a pint versus no milk) was neatly evened out; 6.3 per cent of those who took a daily half-pint had heart trouble, while only 5.8 per cent of those who drank more than half a pint but less than a full pint were thus afflicted. It gets better still: there was no difference, in the effects experienced by the subjects, between full-cream milk and the lesser kinds — you can immediately throw that horrible stuff called "skimmed" into the bin. It gets even better than that: the survey showed a massive advantage — a 29 per cent reduction in mortality among the sample — for those who ate fatty fish twice a week. Dr Elwood, I must say, is properly cautious in his conclusions; but who would expect caution from me?

I am not so unkind as to wish heart attacks upon those who for so long have harassed and harangued and harried the weaker ones among us into giving up the foods they liked, though I would not shed tears if I learned that Mr Geoffrey Cannon had been struck permanently dumb. But, though you may think I have just been doing nothing else, my purpose today is not to crow about the notable victory for common sense and good eating we have won. For we have an opportunity to do much more than crow: it is time to take the war to the enemy.

Let us stop being cowed by baseless arguments proffered by obvious thimble-riggers. Let us instead return to what until very recently was the principle on which all the members of mankind, when they had got to the point where they could choose their food, acted. And when I say very recently, I am understating the case; it is considerably less than half a century since the assault on the vital, instinctive rule that had thitherto been paramount.

That rule, which among other virtues corresponds exactly with common sense, says that we all, over a period of time, naturally gravitate to a reasonably balanced diet with enough flavour and variety to enable us to enjoy it.

Let us therefore choose the foods we like the taste of, the drink we like to accompany them, the method of cooking them that gives us the greatest enjoyment; we must always remember, of course, that though we are choosing for ourselves, others may choose differently. Let us ignore entirely the claims that although we detest spinach, or custard, or semolina, we must force some down because otherwise we shall not be healthy; let us not only ignore that nonsense but cleave to the obvious truth that food we loathe *cannot* be good for us. And while we are about it, let us step up our consumption of the things we enjoy but have been bullied out of eating except in tiny portions.

As it happens, I dislike the taste of milk, probably because I was compelled to drink it at school; I take it in tea, and with coffee in the morning (though not at night, when I must have it very black and very strong), but never straight. I cannot, therefore, lead you on the milk crusade. But I can carry a banner for milk's handsome yellow brother: I hereby pledge myself to a substantial increase in my consumption of butter (and, now I come to think of it, whipped cream), because — and only because — I like the taste of it. That it will also preserve me indefinitely from heart attacks is another advantage.

...and moreover

Matthew Parris

In the small hours of Saturday morning I appeared on something called *The James Whale Radio Show*, on television, in Leeds, by mistake.

I had no idea what kind of show this was. I did realise that it was not radio, but never asked myself why you would call a TV programme a "radio" show unless your intentions were anarchic. I did not realise that Mr Whale's intentions were anarchic. Invited to talk about the problems of single people I *think* I thought this was a sort of intellectual chat show, a provincial version of *After Dark* for Yorkshire. Packets of condoms on the table, prizes in the viewers' competition, should have alerted me to my error.

It had started not in Leeds but at Eton College, the same night. I had been invited by the Senior Boys' Political Society to talk about my career in politics. Pleased to accept, this was an opportunity to visit a famous institution for the first time. I drove up, as arranged, at seven.

We all have prejudices. I bridle at the concept of English public schools. Yet as a Derbyshire MP I was a governor of Repton, and when you see a good school, how can you wish it otherwise for ideological reasons? Reality constantly interferes with my prejudices, as it did at Eton. The atmosphere was civilised, the company intelligent and there was not, about the place, the air of conformism I had expected.

I had dinner, first, with the society's committee. Lord and Lady Charteris were so welcoming that I soon relaxed and stopped worrying that my bow tie drooped, and my black trousers lacked a stripe. On realising that Lady Charteris's name was Gay, which is really a lovely name, I mentally revised the part of my speech where MI6 unaccountably offer me a job, and described myself to the boys as never having had a girlfriend nor ever intending to.

At ten I took my leave regretfully, required in Leeds for 1 am. "What's the programme called?" Lady Charteris asked. "Perhaps the boys could stay up to watch?"

"Oh no," I said, "It's YTV. I don't think you can get it outside Yorkshire."

Stopping at the Blue Boar services at Watford Gap for a plastic bottle of banana-flavoured skimmed milk helped me adjust from the world whence I came to the world whither I went. I hit Leeds at 12.55am, too late to abandon the black tie.

Odd. Nobody else was in dinner jackets. They seemed to be filming the show in the foyer. Cameramen were rushing around videoing James Whale as he walked from place to place with a busty, pouting brunette. A woman dressed as a WPC — but in a miniskirt — with a whip, was singing a strange song. On a screen behind Mr Whale was a video close-up of a chiropodist removing corns from a foot. On a table were the condoms.

My interview took place in a simulated bar. "Just because you're gay, Matthew," Mr Whale kicked off, "doesn't mean you have to remain single." I was taken aback. Angela Rippon never told me anything like that.

They led me to a sofa with the brunette. A young man explained the format. "You haven't seen the show? You don't know the risk you're taking. It's the sort of thing people stagger home after six pints of lager and a curry to watch, and burp, and wonder whether they're drunk or the producer is mad. It's a *cult* programme." I blanched.

We were on air (I realise now) when the busty brunette began to cuddle me. She was called Cleo Rocos and turned out to have a brain. "You're lucky you weren't here a few weeks ago," said the young man, "or it would have been Bernard Manning." Cleo and I swapped phone numbers — on air I now realise. On the video screen were pictures of a swimmer doing an aquadance with what I later learnt was a whale, to music. "I've never swum with a dolphin," I remarked, on air it seems. Off air, they gave me an envelope of £10 notes. A producer asked me which Tory MPs would be fun to have on the show. I wrote down "Dame Elaine Kellet-Bowman".

Driving home at 3am I consoled myself. "I'll spend the £10 notes at The Druid on Saturday night. They don't get YTV around Matlock."

They do. Did you know *The James Whale Show* is networked nationally? At The Druid they know. Fred had a video. "Oh yes," said Denise, "Cynthia Payne is sometimes on it, and Geoffrey Dickens."

"Don't worry," said Jeremy. "*Times* readers will never know."

No plot after all

While speculation continues about whether or not there was a conspiracy by John Major's supporters to remove Margaret Thatcher from Downing Street, a member of the prime minister's election campaign team is threatening legal action over a claim that her downfall was plotted before she resigned.

The threat by Alan Duncan, a Conservative parliamentary candidate, follows suggestions, fuelled by Mrs Thatcher's remarks in her first post-resignation interview, that there was a plot to replace her. This is refuted in an article in the *Economist* debunking the conspiracy theory, and by Edward Pearce, Major's biographer, in yesterday's *Sunday Times*. Duncan is consulting lawyers about a claim by Chris Buckland in Saturday's *Daily Express* that Major supporters set up their headquarters in his house in Westminster the weekend before the first leadership ballot on Tuesday November 20.

Duncan, a wealthy oil trader, did allow his house in Gayfere Street to be used by Major's team during the campaign, but insists they did not move in nor even ask to do so, until two hours after Mrs Thatcher had resigned on November 22. According to Buckland, in his piece "When Friends became Plotters", scheming began in Duncan's home on November 18.

But Duncan describes this as "a complete fabrication".

"About two hours after Mrs Thatcher resigned I was telephoned by William Hague, a friend of mine and the parliamentary private secretary to Norman Lamont. He asked if I could make the house available. He knew that I recently had it renovated and had made arrangements for additional telephone lines in the event of it being used in a general election campaign."

Duncan had previously signed a letter supporting Mrs Thatcher as prime minister. He had told Tories in his adopted constituency that he supported her. "This suggestion of Buckland's is blatantly wrong and very damaging. The idea that we were saying we supported Mrs Thatcher while plotting for Mr Major at my house is total fantasy."

Nixed

A new book which seeks partially to exonerate Richard Nixon and claims to reveal the true identity of Deep Throat, the Watergate informer, has been dismissed by Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, the journalists who uncovered the scandal. Neither man has cooperated with Len Colodny and Bob Gettlin, authors of *Silent Coup: The Removal of Richard Nixon*, due out in May.

Gollancz, the publisher, has constructed carefully orchestrat- publicity for the book. It has claimed that the manuscript is being delivered chapter by chapter, with no one at Gollancz having read a complete version. "Such is the confidential nature of the material that we have had to agree a simultaneous publication date with America, Canada, Australia and Japan," says Adrienne Maguire, the Gollancz publicity director, in a letter to commissioning editors. "For these reasons we are not at liberty to send out a copy of the manuscript, but must ask instead that if you are interested in serialisation, you will visit the Gollancz office where you may read the edited typescript after signing a confidentiality agreement."

Bernstein, who now works for *Time* magazine in New York, says: "I talked to one of these guys and it quickly became clear to me that this was, at best, a jaundiced view of Watergate. On the identity of Deep Throat, they are just guessing." Sadly, Bernstein was not prepared, after all these years, to identify the mysterious mole.

Draught agreement

The late Alfred Wainwright, a tireless chronicler of cross-country walks, is about to buy his last drink for Pennine ramblers. Since 1968 the author has treated every hiker clutching one of his famous guidebooks to a free half-pint of beer at the Border Hotel, Kirk Yetholm, the end of the 270-mile Pennine Way.



However, there is now less than £30 left in Wainwright's kitty that has helped to refresh more than 30,000 hikers. Devon Russell, the hotel publican, received a final cheque for £500 last March.

As the hiking season nears, Russell has been told by Wainwright's solicitor that the will makes no provision to maintain the quaint tradition. He has sufficient cash left from the last payment to slake a mere 60 thirsts. Will he then stop serving Wainwright's ale? "I am determined to keep it going. It is world famous," says Russell. "Unfortunately the brewery is not interested, but I have been talking to a man in Bristol who manufactures walking boots. He is willing to keep it going, and it will continue as Wainwright's Half."

Past masters

Mikhail Gorbachev may soon have to deal with a plan by Anatoli Sobchak, the mayor of Leningrad, to restore the birthplace of Soviet communism to a measure of its tsarist glory by reverting to the original name of St Petersburg.

Sobchak has invited a delegation from France's second-largest advertising agency to discuss the name change as the first step in a campaign to promote Leningrad's cultural heritage. Talks are planned next month.

Jacques Seguela, the agency chairman, has advised a bevy of East European leaders on how to promote their burgeoning democracies, including Solidarity in Poland, Vaclav Havel in Czechoslovakia, and Zhelyu Zhelev, the president of Bulgaria. Seguela is also having talks next month with Petre Roman, the Romanian prime minister, about the country's image.

He plans a package to concentrate on Leningrad's cultural rather than revolutionary connections. "I want to make St Petersburg the cultural capital of a new Europe," he says. "Renaming it St Petersburg would stress its cultural roots." I don't think the campaign should be political."



Princess show Paris-Bonn

TIMES PAST — THE TIMES

BACK TO THE RATES

John Major has rightly decided that he must assert his authority in the matter of Michael Heseltine's review of the poll tax. Within the next week, a cabinet committee must reach broad conclusions on what sort of replacement will be proposed. Although these cannot be enacted before the general election, they can be presented to the public in April before the local elections in May.

So far so commendable. More worrying are the signs that expediency has already overwhelmed sound judgment in deciding what the replacement should be. The state of the argument is as follows. A per capita tax has indeed proved unpopular and hard to collect. None the less its flat-rate character has yielded some accountability, at least in the city areas whose councils' misbehaviour started the rate-capping and poll tax saga back in the early 1980s. Ministers have broadly accepted that a property tax must be reintroduced — Britain is the only Western country without one — but they would like it to have some per capita element for the sake of political appearances. What type of property tax and what type of per capita tax are both under fierce debate.

Mr Heseltine's suggestion that the property tax might be banded, based on three to five categories of property according to size, is vulnerable to many objections. While superficially simple, size is hard to define without a Domesday survey of every room in the land. Hence the talk of bedroom taxes, roof taxes and window taxes. Moreover, if the poll tax is unfair, how much more unfair to tax a flat in Belgravia the same as a flat in a Newham tower block?

Property taxes should be based on some concept of value — as the Treasury is now arguing. This renders the tax progressive, with rich areas paying more than poor. The important argument is between capital valuation on the one hand and rental valuation on the other. Capital values have the virtue of being readily assessable through the property market, but suffer from being not just progressive but intensely so. Many council flats have near zero market value. There would be severe "losers", notably the poor widow in a large house in a middle-class area. One way round this is to change a valuation only on a change of owner, but this would yield unfair discrepancies in incidence between adjacent properties.

Rental valuation, on which the rates were based, has two great advantages. It has a narrower spread of value than does capital, making it less severely progressive and thus yielding fewer winners and losers at the extremes. It also can be based on an existing register, that still in place from the 1989 rates and in use for water charges. Changes in valuations within authorities can be made on the basis of a rolling local revaluation, subject to the appeals system that existed until last year. Long term shifts in value between authorities can be adjusted through the central grant structure.

Of course there would be some shocks to the political system, though none as great as the continuing shock of poll tax. Rates will be higher than poll taxes for many middle-class people, though the government has shown with the poll tax that it can always throw money at keeping local taxes down. But at least the property tax would be locally determined. This would provide precisely the accountability which ministers have long desired and which the capped and rebated poll tax is in danger of losing.

As for "making everybody pay something", let them all pay the rates. No more people pay poll tax than paid rates — few wives or offspring really pay separately despite the costly register that implies they do. Certainly there is a case for insisting that the rates element in any tenancy agreement is paid separately, whether for private, local authority or housing association tenants. This should increase the "transparency" of local taxes.

What is absurd is the latest proposal to make everybody pay by means of a flat-rate national capitation charge, over and above the rates. The suggestion is that a charge be fixed at £20-£50 a year per adult resident, low enough for the householder, who would collect it, not to feel it worth evading, yet high enough to be worth collecting. On a trust-the-ratepayer basis — that is, without a costly additional register — this might just run for a time, but to what end? If the tax, as proposed, is a national one, like the television licence, it will yield no shred of local accountability. It would also require some rebating for large, poor households, thus increasing the cost and diminishing the bite. So bad is the idea that an inverse version is even being floated, of single householders being allowed a fixed deduction from rates rather than families having to pay more. Has the poll tax come to this: that "everybody pays", except singles?

The rates were a mildly progressive tax on the personal wealth invested in property, a modest disincentive to extravagance in living space, an encouragement to sub-let, a lever of local democratic accountability, hard to evade and cheap to collect. The more these virtues are propounded, the more senseless seems the decision to ditch them. The Tory party will have no great trouble with the electorate in consigning the wretched poll tax to history's dustbin by bringing back the rates. The party's trouble is with itself. John Major's first great test as party leader is to bring his backbenchers to recognise reality.

THE SALEM SYNDROME

An independent enquiry into the alleged satanic abuse of children has been set up by the Department of Health, in response to widespread concern that social work agencies have fallen victim to a scare for which there is no foundation in fact. The minister concerned, Virginia Bottomley, has also ordered a change of social work techniques for dealing with such allegations.

There is a curious pattern to these cases. Allegations of ritual or satanic abuse started to appear in Britain relatively recently. They have been traced to efforts by fundamentalist Christian groups, inspired from across the Atlantic, to convince the social work fraternity that such things happened and that they should look for evidence.

The promoters of the idea of satanic abuse argue, as one would expect, from fundamentals. The devil, they say, is active in the world, attacking what is pure and holy. What could be more innocent than family life and the love of parents for their children? So the devil enslaves the parents and obliges them to corrupt their children and even to assault them sexually.

It is almost incredible that such wild ideas could have been swallowed by professional social workers, who by their experience are supposed to be wise in the world's ways and by training, properly sceptical. But the notorious Cleveland case demonstrated (though allegations of ritual abuse were absent there) that when social workers and child psychiatrists are confronted by evidence of sexual and emotional irregularity within families, they are in uncharted and frightening territory.

"Evidence" is often of the most subtle and nuanced kind, easy to misinterpret, all the more so if the emotional relationships within the family are already a little disturbed. Theories which make sense of strange behaviour are always alluring. Under pressure not to leave vulnerable children in households dangerous to their well-being, social workers are tempted to play for safety; and then to justify what they have done by turning suspicion into fact.

The theory of satanic abuse was well-constructed to dovetail into these uncertainties, offering interpretations of children's deviant behaviour which made a sort of sense once certain assumptions had been accepted. But this temptation to leap to far-fetched conclusions is quite unprofessional. It points to deficiencies in social work training which must be corrected fast, before more innocent parents and children are hurt.

Mr Justice Douglas Brown, after a hearing lasting 47 days, concluded on Thursday that there was no shred of evidence to support the Rochdale local authority's contention that a group of children had been the victims of organised ritual abuse. Similar allegations have surfaced elsewhere, notably in Manchester where last year Mr Justice Hollings was hardly less severe in condemning social work malpractice, and in Nottingham where social workers insisted on their "satanic" diagnosis in the face of extreme scepticism from the police. Now the nightmare seems to have started again in Orkney, and there it is yet to be relieved.

This is not the first time in history that an epidemic of wild suspicion against the innocent has spread across the community. In modern Britain professionally trained social-workers should be among those applying common sense and expertise to counter it. The real tragedy of the "satanic abuse" scare is that some of them, instead, have exacerbated it.

WITLESSGENSTEIN

Why should not great men be mad? More to the point, how do mere mortals judge? In the days before that most dismal of sciences, psychiatry, was invented, Diogenes lived, respected by all, in a tub. Before it was taken so seriously, William Butler Yeats processed through Dublin's fair city flailing his arms so extravagantly about him that today, white men in white coats would swiftly have been called. Then, the local coppers wisely concluded that the great man was neither drunk, nor mad: these gyrations were just the natural consequence of "the poetry sturbin' his head".

In his lifetime, Ludwig Wittgenstein's personal eccentrities and uncompromising insistence on the difficulty of philosophical thought detracted from his reputation not a jot. Now a neuroscientist by name of John Smythies invites us to consider him as a schizophrenic (and presumably in consequence to dismiss him intellectually). The reason: his statements never mean quite what they say, the true meaning continually retreating behind further statements. Fair enough as a criticism of a philosopher who insisted that "what can be said at all, can be said clearly" yet devoted much of his life to demonstrating how grammar can mislead. But as a *medical* judgment? By that reckoning, most of the nation's politicians, never mind its poets, should be certified forthwith.

What saner endeavour could there be than "to show the fly the way out of the fly bottle", which Wittgenstein once said was his sole purpose in philosophy? "Whereof one cannot speak, thereon one must remain silent" is the jewel of modern philosophical counsel, at once metaphysically profound and practically sound. The man who understood that "the world of the happy is quite another than the world of the unhappy" cannot entirely have taken leave of his senses. "Great wits are sure to madness near alli'd" wrote Dryden. It has taken a lesser modern wisdom to slur with the charge of insanity the wit and wisdom of a Wittgenstein.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Ribble effect on Tory fortunes and fate of poll tax

From Mr Michael Spicer, MP for Worcestershire South (Conservative)

Sir, It is said that the Ribble Valley result has sealed the fate of the community charge, and it is certainly true that in the north-west certain factors, such as currently low rateable values, have particularly affected people's attitudes towards it. However, as a former deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, I suspect that on past precedent — and whatever was told to pollsters — the real underlying cause of the defeat is likely to have been fear of a deepening recession.

I doubt whether they will dance in the streets of Ribble Valley demanding a revote if the community charge is replaced with a property tax whose level, other things being equal, will for many people be twice that of their last rate. The real problem, in Ribble Valley and elsewhere, is that local government expenditure is now almost out of control.

The community charge attempts to tackle this by relating local expenditure to what people have to pay. (A flat "top-up" head tax would not achieve this). It has already been successful in exposing the true price of much wasted and misdirected local expenditure. This public awareness is new and very healthy.

There are only two ways now of bringing local expenditure back under control. Either central government takes direct charge of all the important items; or an element of local accountability is retained, with a direct link between what is spent and what is paid.

I prefer the second approach. For it to work properly requires the introduction of single-tier local government and the end to buck-passing between counties and districts.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SPICER,
House of Commons.
March 10.

From the Leader of Hillingdon Borough Council

Sir, The implementation of the community charge, the Tories' flagship policy, has always suffered from a lack of conviction, and the Ribble Valley by-election has now, according to some, marked its end. I wonder why.

Some senior Tories express surprise at the difficulties we have had "selling" the charge. Yet we were all well aware that the reason it took so many decades to get rid of rates was because of the anticipated outcry that would come from the losers. Reform was essential, however. It took a government of courage to decide to go ahead.

The community charge has, quite clearly, made local authorities more accountable. The venom directed at the charge from Labour local authorities and some Tory shires is because their spending policies have been put into focus. The juxtaposition of high and low-charge authorities has meant that residents have been asking some very pertinent questions about how their money is spent. Any authority with a charge above £400 should be able to reduce it without cutting the sharp end of the services which have been locally decided upon.

With the new community charge reduction scheme we will see massive help for those who have been most affected by the charge. It is a shame that this has not received more publicity. Just when the charge is beginning to work, there are signs that the party is being rail-roaded into its abolition.

Our principles and policies are in the hands of pollsters and pundits. What ever happened to courage?

Yours faithfully
ANDREW BOFF, Leader,
Hillingdon Borough Council,
Civic Centre,
Uxbridge,
Middlesex.
March 9.

From Sir Samuel Goldman

Sir, Why is it thought axiomatic that everyone should pay "something" towards the cost of local services? Millions of people pay no income tax; yet they receive the benefit of all the services provided by central government — defence, health care, retirement pensions and a host of others — and nobody thinks there is anything wrong: quite the reverse. Similarly with the principal tax on business, corporation tax: no profits/no tax, with tax proportionate to profits — and everyone accepts this as fair.

Would it not be advantageous to scrap all past schemes of local taxation and found it in future on the two fairest taxes in the fiscal book, income tax and corporation tax, based as they are on ability to pay?

This is not an argument for a local income tax: the prospect of some hundreds of mini-chancellors of the exchequer up and down the country tampering with the principal source of revenue of the state cannot be contemplated. But now that computerisation of income tax assessment is a reality, or nearly so, there should be no difficulty in collecting a centrally determined supplementary rate of tax, universal throughout the country, paid by every income tax payer to the local authority where he or she resides — a local expenditure contribution, or LEC.

The contribution from businesses would similarly be determined centrally, like the present business rate, but related to profits and not to a property valuation. Since the territorial connection would be severed, the extra tax would be collected as it is now and redistributed to local authorities, as under the present support arrangements.

All this would leave local authorities accountable to their constituents exclusively for the quality of the services they provide and their efficiency in so doing. It would also bring enormous savings in the cost of administration.

Yours faithfully
S. GOLDMAN,
White Gate, Church Lane,
Haslemere, Surrey.

From Mr Leslie Waddington

Sir, Ribble Valley means the end of poll tax and few people will miss it, with its inherent injustices. At least part of the electorate has probably affected the political system.

Meanwhile, London is suffering from a uniform business rate, which was introduced at the same time as the poll tax. The end-effect of this is that business rates will average over 30 per cent or more of rents, whereas our competitors in cities like Frankfurt, Paris, Zurich and New York have to pay a property tax on average equivalent to approximately 9 per cent of their rents.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE WADDINGTON,
Waddington Galleries Ltd.,
71 Cork Street, W1.
March 8.

From Councillor Selwyn Ward

Sir, Janet Daley's article, "Let them tax households" (March 8), seems to be predicated on the myth that council tenants were not liable to pay rates.

This was never the case. Collection of rates might, for reasons of efficiency and administrative convenience, have been combined with rent collection, but tenants were always liable for rates at precisely the same level and calculated in the same way as for owner-occupiers.

"Let them tax households"? We always did. We called it rates.

Yours sincerely,
S. WARD (Leader, Labour Group),
London Borough of Bromley,
Bromley Civic Centre,
Stockwell Close, Bromley, Kent.
March 8.

Threat to coastal rescue service

From Mr E. T. Davies

Sir, Proposals which would reduce to a token the presence of regular officers of HM Coastguard within the maritime community of the UK, and much reduce the effectiveness of the Auxiliary Coastguard Service are shortly to be forwarded to the Department of Transport.

I refer to the review of the Coastguard Sector Organisation and Auxiliary Coastguard Service, currently in the hands of HM Coastguard's six regional controllers.

The coastal response to marine and maritime emergencies in the UK is currently provided by auxiliary coastguards, some 3,500 of them, organised in rescue companies at more than 300 locations. The companies are mostly in fishing villages, port and resort towns, and other communities of the coast.

The auxiliaries are volunteers in the government service who receive no wages but are paid an out-of-pocket allowance (this fact has not prevented a grateful government from taxing the money as income).

The review document recently circulated but not widely published implies a readiness to reduce this service perhaps by more than half, cutting the number of rescue companies possibly by up to two-thirds. It also implies that sufficient cover would be provided in populous and busy holiday areas by stationing a team of 12 every 20 miles or so.

Members of such scattered teams cannot reasonably be expected to be familiar with the ground. On dark and stormy nights, upon cliffs, mudflats, beaches and marshes, there could be injury and death as a result.

Such proposals disregard communities where volunteer coastal lifesaving has been rooted for more than 100 years, and look instead to towns which may have no maritime connections and are merely near the sea.

Two or three generations in the long-associated communities, of commitment, pride and traditional readiness to turn out in emergency, have been weighed and found wanting by officialdom, in search of something else to put on "the bottom line." For shame!

Yours faithfully,
TED DAVIES
(Auxiliary coastguard),
54 Margaret Avenue,
St Austell,
Cornwall.
March 8.

Teacher training

From Professor A. M. Ross

Sir, Ronald Butt (March 4) uses the annual report of the Chief Inspector for Schools to introduce some comments on standards of education, and ends with the by-now ritual attack on teacher training.

It should be remembered that today the content of teacher training is determined not by "the education establishment" (whatever that might be) but by the government. It has even set up a quango to ensure that its specifications on these matters are met in every detail.

Perhaps Mr Butt should have quoted the passages in the same report which deal with teacher training. The Senior Chief Inspector's judgment, based upon the hundreds of visits to training establishments carried out by his specialist colleagues, is that:

> The initial training of primary and secondary teachers is satisfactory or better in most institutions. In several, in both the university and public sectors, the quality is good or outstanding. Of all the work inspected, 85 per cent was judged satisfactory or better.

Obviously we could do even better, and no doubt we shall. We welcome public interest in our work, but it would be more useful if the advice offered to us was based upon what teacher trainers are actually doing, within the government-set guidelines, to equip our students with what is needed to teach the national curriculum.

Meanwhile, the considered views of her Majesty's Inspectors, based as they are on direct observation, provide an authoritative judgment on the work of the college, polytechnic and university departments engaged in teacher training.

Yours faithfully,
A. M. ROSS (Academic Secretary),
Universities Council for the Education of Teachers,
58 Gordon Square, WC1.

EC defence policy

From Mr Adam Breeze

Sir, Jacques Delors' call made in London (report and leading article, March 8) for the European Community to extend its competence to the field of defence should be greeted with swift condemnation. Europe already has the basis for a common defence policy in the interlinking institutions of Nato and the Western European Union, with the CSCE (Conference in Security and Co-operation in Europe) framework providing a wider continental scope.

The strengthening of the "European pillar" within Nato is indeed long overdue and would logically involve a greater role for the WEU. Moves to integrate the EC into the equation, however, would create unnecessary uncertainty and would undermine fundamentally the nature of the Atlantic alliance.

The three EC members presently outside the WEU structure — Greece, Denmark and Ireland — should become full members of the union before any Community participation in defence matters can even be contemplated.

Jacques Delors should be reminded that even his socialist friends in the United Kingdom will have no truck with his latest scheme. Neil Kinnock has publicly stated (*The Times*, January 24) that:

> ... the EC should really have no competence in defence matters and will, in any case, have great difficulty in developing credibility in defence matters.

Let us hope that the EC will begin to pay more attention to issues at hand, like the completion of the single market, and leave military matters to the tried and tested fora of WEU and Nato.

Yours sincerely,
ADAM BREEZE
(Projects Director (Europe)),
International Freedom Foundation,
Suite 500, Chesham House,
150 Regent Street, W1.
March 7.

Fortunes of war

From Professor Emeritus A. J. Brook, FRSE

Sir, Would Sir Winston Churchill have been as surprised to find his profile on a plastic carrier-bag made in Germany (letter from Mr J. D. Barclay, March 2) as to know that on February 23 his great-grandson and the great-grandson of Germany's pre-war ambassador, Ribbentrop, both received honours degrees in economics at the same graduation ceremony at the University of Buckingham?

I feel sure he would have been truly delighted so see both young men's academic success rewarded together.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN J. BROOK,
19 Chandos Road, Buckingham.
March 4.

Confining the clergy

From Mr C. P. Ashcroft

Sir, The Reverend Edward Underhill (March 7) should have more concern for his parishioners, whose donations, convenants and free-will gifts are increasingly eaten up by the enormous and escalating cost of maintenance, repair and upkeep of "modest" vicarages, let alone the extra cost in maintaining what are often listed buildings in the shape of Georgian parsonages.

I am pleased to say that the clergy in my own parish, where we are called upon to maintain three clergy houses, show no such thoughtlessness.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE ASHCROFT,
14 Courtfield Gardens,
Denham, Buckinghamshire.
March 7.

Prince and polls

From the Chairman and the Executive Director of the Radical Society

Sir, There can be little doubt that the reported remarks of Prince Charles about his preferred electoral system (Diary, March 7) overstep the proper bounds of the proprieties of a constitutional monarchy. To declare in favour of one particular electoral system when it is well known that there is a marked difference of opinion between the political parties on the issue is nothing short of entering into party political debate.

There is something faintly ridiculous about an unelected prince lecturing us all on the merits of electoral systems; and such interventions could be dismissed if they were not part of a series of contentious statements from the Prince which amount to an attempt to give the palace a political voice. It is worth reminding the Prince that should he want to take part in political debate he is free to do so, though not as heir to the throne.

There is already a growing body of opinion, represented across the political spectrum which is beginning to question the relevance of the feudal institution of monarchy to a modern society. Should the Prince continue to attempt to create a political (as opposed to ceremonial) role for himself, then the future of the monarchy will become a live constitutional issue long before the debate on proportional representation.

Yours etc.,
S. HASELER (Chairman),
JOHN SPIERS (Executive Director),
The Radical Society,
44 Great Windmill Street, W1.

Terminal dilemma

From Mr Peter Le Marchand

Sir, I have used Liverpool Street station since 1952. It has never occurred to me that it is named after an ignoble, or indeed any, byway; it is simply the station whence you depart for East Anglia. I cannot think why Mr Donald Findlay (March 7) should want to change its name. It encompasses a quintessential English eccentricity in that you cannot catch a train to Liverpool there. Let the name be.

Yours faithfully,
PETER Le MARCHAND,
Lowood, Hasketon,
Woodbridge, Suffolk.

From Mr John Hodgson

Sir, Liverpool Street is named after the remarkable Prime Minister, Lord Liverpool (1812-27), as is the adjacent byway. Let us keep the traditional name.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HODGSON,
44 Cephas Avenue, E1.

From Mr M. A. Jones

Sir, Rename Liverpool Street? Surely not for as long as it is a steady earner on the Monopoly board.

Yours faithfully,
M. A. JONES,
51 Forest Side, E4.

Heresy or error

From the Chairman of the Association of Catholic Women

Sir, Mrs Sylvia Disley writes (March 5) "We have only the Bible to go by" in reference to male ordination. Not so. We also have the tradition of the Church. St John, or his disciple, wrote at the end of the gospel that bears his name: "There were many other things that Jesus did" — too many, he says, to be written down (John 21:25)

It is the Church that has always been the guardian of Christ's legacy and it was the same Church that decided which were the inspired books that make up the Bible. The tradition of the Church was to admit women to all the sacraments except holy orders.

That ordinance does not in any sense imply that women are inferior: how could God entrust his son to the womb of a woman if that were so? Catholic women, who look forward to the unity of all Christians, are saddened by this dispute among Anglicans and by the arguments advanced in an attempt to ridicule the constant teaching of the Church.

Yours faithfully,
JOSEPHINE ROBINSON
(Chairman),
Association of Catholic Women,
22 Surbiton Hill Park,
Surbiton, Surrey.
March 6.

From the Reverend Eric West

Sir, I am relieved to hear that the archbishop-elect no longer wishes to call me a heretic for opposing the ordination of women to the priesthood (report, February 28). I am only in fundamental error, but with a dash of integrity. I would prefer, if I have any of the latter, to be held to be in fundamental disagreement rather than error. However, I realise that I must be thankful for small archiepiscopal mercies.

However, I am not sure exactly when I fell into this state, whatever it is. Was it during a particular session of the General Synod? Did I go astray when I first heard of, and was repulsed by, the insidious doctrine of the genderless Jesus?

Could it be said that until (and only if) the General Synod passes its divisive legislation in 1992 I am, dare I say, as orthodox as can be? In that case, just who is in fundamental error until that time?

Yours,
ERIC WEST,
Biscot Vicarage,
161 Bishopscote Road,
Luton,
Bedfordshire.
March 8.

From Mrs L. A. Pittman

Sir, Tuesday, March 5: ten letters to *The Times* on the subject of Dr Carey. No wonder people are leaving the Church in droves.

Yours faithfully,
LAURA PITTMAN,
St Catherine's,
11 Clifton, York.
March 5.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

March 10: The Princess Royal, President, The British Academy of Film and Television Arts, this evening attended the Craft Awards at St David's Hall, Cardiff, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for South Glamorgan (Captain Norman Lloyd-Edwards).

The Hon Mrs Legge-Bourke was in attendance.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.J. Ashton and Miss K.J. Freeman
The engagement is announced between Charles, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Ashton, of Wealdside, South Weald, Essex, and Kate, only daughter of the late Mr Alan Freeman and of Mrs Joseph Gow and stepdaughter of Mr David Gow, of Baytree Cottage, Alresford, Hampshire.

Mr J.M.V. Baker and Miss M.E.le Sueur
The engagement is announced between Jonathon, son of Mr and Mrs John Baker, of Higher Shortwood Farm, Litton, near Bath, and Melinda, daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs John Smiley, of Cornerways, House, Chobham, Surrey.

Mr S.D. Charlesworth and Miss S.B. Grimes
The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Mr and Mrs Gordon Charlesworth, of Stapleford, Cambridgeshire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Grimes, of Addington, Kent.

Mr M.A. Costley-White and Miss E.F. Herdman
The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Mr and Mrs Colin Costley-White, of Bafford Croft, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, and Emma Frances, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Herdman, of Scrubditch Farm, North Cerney, Gloucestershire.

Dr D.A.S. Cranstoun of that Ilk and Corehouse and Dr Iur M.M. Glättli
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mrs J.G. Lockhart of Corehouse, Lanark, and the late Major J.G. Lockhart, and Maja, daughter of Professor and Mrs Hugo Glättli, of Küsnacht, Switzerland.

Mr C.A. Lindley and Miss L.J. Gott
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr Lohai Lindley, of Kirkbymoorside, North Yorkshire, and Mrs William Spiller, of Minstead, Hampshire, and Lisa, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerald Gott, of Wereham, Norfolk.

Mr R.J.N. Moon and Miss B. Richardson
The engagement is announced between Benedict, second son of Dr Charles Moon, of Truro, Cornwall, and Mrs Liggy Whittingham, of Penzance, Cornwall, and Belinda, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Richardson, of Scaynes Hill, Sussex.

Mr D.A.C. Purvis and Miss V.L. Keville
The engagement is announced between Dominic, elder son of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Purvis, of Leckhampstead House, Leckhampstead, Berkshire, and Louise, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Keville, of The Old Vicarage, Shipley, West Sussex.

Mr D. Raeside and Miss V.F. Sutcliffe
The engagement is announced between Dominic, son of the late Dr J.R. Raeside and of Mrs Ralph Twentyman, of Willoughby, Forest Row, Sussex, and Vivienne, daughter of Mr and Mrs G.W. Sutcliffe, of Greenthorne, Edgworth, Bolton.

Mr A.M. Roberts and Miss G.F. Bruce
The engagement is announced between Alastair MacLeod, son of Mr and Mrs Gordon Roberts, of Jordans, Buckinghamshire, and Gillian Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roy Bruce, of Wilton Row, London, SW1.

Birthdays today

Mr Douglas Adams, author, 39; Mr Terence Alexander, actor, 68; Miss Agatha Barbara, former president, Malta, 68; Sir John Batten, former Physician to the Queen, 67; Professor A.O. Betts, former principal, Royal Veterinary College, 64; Miss Louise Brough, tennis player, 68; Lord Congleton, 61; Sir Kenneth Dover, former president, Corpus Christi College, Oxford, 71; Mr D.J. Enright, writer, 71; Mr Peter Eyre, actor, 49; Mr David Gentleman, painter and designer, 61.

Mr Jonathan Gestetner, formerly joint president, Gestetner Holdings, 51; Professor T.C. Gray, anaesthetist, 78; Miss Margaret Herbison, former MP, 84; Viscount Hood, 77; Mr Raymond Jackson (Jak), the cartoonist, 64; Mr Nigel Lawson, MP, 59; Sir Fitzroy Maclean, former MP, 80; Sir Henry Marking, former chairman, British Tourist Authority, 71; Mr Timothy Mason, former director, Scottish Arts Council, 46; Mrs V.J.K. Milligan, industrial consultant, 65.

Judge Sir James Miskin, QC, former Recorder of London, 66; Air Marshal Sir Alec Morris, 65; Lord Mowbray and Stourton, 68; Mr Rupert Murdoch, chief executive, The News Corporation, 60; Miss Erica O'Donnell, founder, Study Centre for the History of the Fine and Decorative Arts, 71; Mr Justice Pill, 53; Sir Iain Tennant, Lord Lieutenant of Morayshire, 72; Miss Patricia Tindale, architect, 65; Mr Ron Todd, trades unionist, 64; Sir Peter Walters, chairman-designate, Midland Bank, 60; Lord Wilson of Rievaulx, 75.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will attend the Commonwealth Day Observance service in Westminster Abbey at 3.10; and a reception given by the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth at Lancaster House at 6.30.

The Prince of Wales will attend the service in Westminster Abbey at 3.10; and a reception at the Durbar Court, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, at 7.00 for the National Portrait Gallery development appeal.

The Princess of Wales, as Patron of Child 2000 (the National Council for Child Health) will receive members of the council at Kensington Palace at noon; and, as Patron of the Natural History Museum, will open the ecology gallery at the museum at 7.00.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Butler Trust, will attend the annual awards ceremony at Buckingham Palace at 11.30; and visit HM Prison Wandsworth at 3.00. Later, as Commandant-in-Chief of the St John Ambulance and Nursing Cadets, she will attend the St John Prior Cadet reception at Buckingham Palace at 6.00.

Luncheon

International Tribology Council
Professor H. Peter Jost, President of the International Tribology Council, was host at a luncheon held on Saturday at the Savoy Hotel to mark the silver jubilee of the establishment of the concept and word *tribology* by the 1965 Department of Education and Science Committee. Among those present were Dr D W Tanner, Mr R P Langston, Mr L F Hall, Dr J G Lavender, Mr S E B Solomons, Mr J Veale and Professor D Dowson.

Dinner

London Cornish Association
Lord St Levan, President of the London Cornish Association, presided at the anniversary dinner held on Saturday at the Portman Hotel. Mr Ted Gundry was the principal guest and the Rev Ian Haile, Chairman of the Cornwall Methodist District, was the principal speaker. Lady St Levan, Mr Joe Tregenza, chairman, and Mrs Tregenza were among others present.

Marriage

Mr M.A. Astor and Miss D.M. Murray
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Martin's-in-the-Veld, Rosebank, South Africa, of Mr Robert Astor, elder son of the Hon Hugh and Mrs Astor, to Miss Diana Murray, daughter of the late Dr Louis Murray and of Mrs Murray. Father Frank Hulley officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother, Mr Andrew William Murray, was attended by Guy Halford-Thompson, Hugh Halford-Thompson and Caroline Murray. Mr Johnathon Greig was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in Mauritius.

Memorial services

Sir Thomas Harley
A memorial service for Sir Thomas Harley was held on Saturday in Liverpool Cathedral. The Dean of Liverpool officiated. Mr Ian Harley and Mr Christopher Harley, sons, read the lessons and Canon Derek Fathers, Chaplain of Arrowe Park Hospital, Birkenhead, gave an address.

Sir David Piper
The Vice-Chancellor and Proctors of Oxford University attended a memorial service for Sir David Piper held on Saturday at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford. The Rev Brian Mountford officiated. Lord Briggs, Provost of Worcester College, read the lesson and Sir Hugh Casson, CH, gave an address.

Air Vice-Marshal W.E. Colahan
A memorial service for Air Vice-Marshal William Edward Colahan was held on Saturday in the Chapel of RAF College Cranwell. Father Alan Wilson, Roman Catholic college chaplain, officiated. Air Vice-Marshal R.M. Austin, Air Officer Commanding and Commandant, RAF College Cranwell, and Mrs Deirdre Wandtluh, daughter, read the lessons.

Mr John Dermot Colahan, son, read *If* by Rudyard Kipling and the Rev Brian Lucas, Assistant Chaplain-in-Chief, RAF Support Command, preached the homily. Air Chief Marshal Sir Neil Wheeler gave the valedictory address and Mrs Jeanette Trevail, daughter, also paid tribute. Andrea and Corrina Trevail, granddaughters, sang the hymn *Jesus*.

OBITUARIES

JACK MEYER

Jack Meyer, OBE, founder and first headmaster of Millfield School, died on March 9 aged 85. He was born on March 15, 1905.



ROLLO John Oliver Meyer was bound to make his mark. He was unorthodox, quick to spot where opportunity lay and had unusual flair for teaching and sport. He was not only the founder of one of the most expensive schools in the country but was also a county cricketer who dismissed Bradman. Meyer had ideals; he encouraged princes to pay more for their sons to go to Millfield to subsidise the children of the poor.

Educated at Haileybury and Cambridge, Meyer early gained fame as an all-round games-player rather than as an academic. After a short period teaching, he went to India cotton broking in search of a fortune. At the time it was said that in the first three years of broking you made a loss, in the second three you recouped it and the final three years made your fortune. But the slump came at the wrong time and Meyer left the Bombay business in 1929 after only two years. He made his mark in cricket. In 1931, he moved back into education to coach sons of some of the Indian aristocracy for entry to Oxford and Cambridge. In 1935 he was persuaded to take five of them to England. Millfield was thus established. The five boys were joined by one girl, and the school was co-educational from the start. His wife, Joyce, whom he married in 1931, played a key role. He played holiday cricket for his new county, Somerset, and subsequently captained it.

Millfield was slow to develop at first but entered a period of sudden expansion after the war when many returning ex-servicemen needed an extra fillip to gain university entrance qualifications. At the same time a preparatory department was started. Although the number of pupils increased, the staff to pupil ratio was kept at one to five or six.

Meyer found time to aid the disadvantaged. Dyslexia was then barely acknowledged other than as a euphemism for stupidity or emotional disturbance. In fact, a large proportion of apparently sub-literate children had high IQs, and merely suffered from an eye "defect" which jumbled words. Through his system of eye exercises, and explanations, he found children could often quickly overcome this handicap. In helping them conquer their remaining sense of inferiority, he found that identifying a particular sport in which they could excel and intensively training them in it was a key. This reversed the traditional English concept of the "all-rounder", and as the nurturing of sports prowess progressed it paved the way for an astonishing series of British Olympic medals and other international sporting achievements.

Meyer resigned in 1970 at the demand of the governors of the educational charity he had founded. He exiled himself to Greece, undertaking in return for a modest pension never to discuss his departure publicly. The row caused counter criticism of the governors. Meyer was an avid student of the horseracing form book and trainers' gossip.

The success of Jack Meyer's teaching methods may be judged by the fact that on his retirement he left a thriving Millfield with 1,000 pupils in residence, the parents of whom were prepared to pay the salaries of nearly 200 teachers. He had been appointed OBE in 1967.

His pupils included the Welsh rugby star Gareth Edwards, the swimmer Duncan Goodhew, the athletes David Hemery and Mary Rand, the jockey and trainer Ian Balding and Major Dick Hern, who trained horses for the Queen. Among other pupils were the Kings of Saudi Arabia and Thailand, Sir James Goldsmith, the financier, and Tony Blackburn, the disc jockey.

However, retirement weighed heavily and he attempted to raise capital to start a new international school in Greece, but failing to do so, became head of Campion College in Athens, a day school that had been running for three years. The school had been founded to provide an English-based education for the international community there.

When he took over there were 45 pupils. He started a junior department and kindergarten and by 1977, when he became president for three years, there were over 1,000. In 1980 he founded St Lawrence College, a similar establishment, and was headmaster until he retired through ill-health in 1986.

He was aided in negotiating political minefields by helping the son of one of the Colonels to overcome dyslexia. Finally he was co-founder, rector and director of Byron College, a remedial education centre, for a year. In 1945 he founded and ran until 1971 Edgarley Hall, Glastonbury, which is now a leading preparatory school with over 500 children and is one of the best equipped in the country.

Like so much else that he did, his cricket was based on instinct and imagination. Through his personality, as much as his ability, he was forever trying to manipulate the course of a game. He had the versatility of the natural games-player. Besides being three years in the Cambridge cricket XI, he got a rackets blue and was on the edge of the golf side. When, in 1938, the Gentlemen beat the Players at Lord's for only the second time since 1914, Meyer took the important wickets of Woolley and Edrich.

He found the time to captain Somerset in 1947, while he was still creating Millfield. But his best playing days were over by then. Most of them had been passed in India, where he had taken 28 wickets in only two matches in the Quadrangular Tournament of 1927-28, for the Europeans against the Hindus and the Muhammadans. In 1936, having got back from India, he made 202 not out for Somerset against Lancashire at Taunton. All told he took 412 first-class wickets with anything from leg breaks and googlies to gentle outswingers, and must have written almost as many letters to *The Times* on what should be done about the modern game.

He is survived by his widow and one daughter, another daughter having died as the result of a car accident.

KATHLEEN GARSCADDEN

Kathleen Mary Evelyn Garscadden, broadcaster, died on February 20 aged 94. She was born on February 18, 1897.



KATHLEEN Garscadden was one of the founder members of staff of the BBC in Scotland, joining in 1923 at the outset of broadcasting and became a familiar voice. Born in Glasgow and educated at Hutchinson's Girls' Grammar School, she was the only person whose broadcasting career spanned the 42-year life of BBC *Children's Hour* for which she was a programme organiser, presenter, broadcaster and producer.

To begin with Kathleen Garscadden was called "Auntie Cyclone" (she sometimes read the weather forecasts), then Auntie Kathleen, but for most of her career just Kathleen. Under the eye of Sir John Reith, rules for broadcasting were strict. She recalled in 1979: "Ethics mattered. We tried to teach virtues, like kindness and obedience. We did not have bad characters in our stories but wickedness had to be punished."

As *Children's Hour* organiser for Scotland, she had a flair for spotting talent and many youngsters who began in the programme went on to become famous in their own fields. One discovery just before the war was a young fresh-faced boy named Gordon Jackson who took part in a programme on India in a series *Playtime in Other Lands*.

During the war programmes were arranged for children evacuated overseas to be put into broadcast contact with their parents at home. Kathleen Garscadden was responsible for the contribution from Scottish families. In 1945, as regional broadcasting resumed, the output of *Children's Hour* increased vastly.

She drew her talent from all parts of Scotland and introduced to the microphone many actors whom she often referred to as "my boys". Besides Gordon Jackson, discoveries included Tom Conti, David Webster, Stanley Baxter, Rikki Fulton and John Grieve. She gave the Kirkintilloch Junior Choir its first broadcasting opportunity with a performance from the Empire Exhibition in Glasgow in 1938 and it became the most popular of the many young choirs heard from Scotland. Later a young member of the choir — Moira Anderson — had to stand on a box to reach the microphone when doing her first broadcast solo numbers. Kathleen Garscadden also gave a first opportunity on air to a young lad of 15 who had his own youth orchestra in Stirling. The conductor was Muir Mathieson, later the writer of film scores.

She chose and produced numerous plays written especially with her younger listeners in mind and she introduced to *Children's Hour* many of the famous classics. Among a rich variety of programmes she featured Scottish cathedrals and castles in outside broadcasts. She also tried her skill as a television producer with features on Culzean Castle and the Royal Scottish Museum as well as a light entertainment series, *Loganberry Pie*, which featured another *Children's Hour* discovery of hers — Jimmy Logan.

In June 1960, she retired from the BBC but not from broadcasting. She achieved her aims as a leading producer by gentle persuasion, without cramping individual style. From time to time she contributed to programmes well into her nineties. She represented the standards and ideals on which *Children's Hour* had been built. There was much personal integrity beneath her impish humour, and her work was a vocation. She never married.

JOYCE GRAEME

Joyce Graeme, dancer, teacher and director, died in Gillingham, Dorset on February 26, aged 72. She was born Joyce Platt in Leeds on August 30, 1918.

JOYCE Graeme was a dancer of exceptional dramatic gifts. She was seen at her best with Ballet Rambert in the mid-1940s and, in a late resurgence of her dancing career, with the short-lived but memorable London Dance Theatre in 1964-5.

Graeme helped to stage Rambert's celebrated production of *Giselle* in 1946 and played the Queen of the Wilis with a chilling malevolence that set a new standard. She knew how to make the most of her tall, gaunt physique and, left her face unpowdered so that it shone with a ghastly radiance in the moonlit scene.

The small Rambert company of that time could not match larger companies in terms of classical dancing but it achieved a sense of style, a logical cohesion and (with Graeme supporting Sally Gilmour in the title role and Walter Gore as Albrecht) a great theatrical power.

She was adept at conveying a certain bitterness on stage. Gore created the role of Mrs Punch for her in his *Mr Punch* and she played the jealous elder sister in André Howard's *The Fugitive*. But she had a flair for comedy too, shown as the tired blond tart in Tudor's *Judgment of Paris* and the haughty ballerina from Milan in the same choreographer's *Gala Performance*.

Graeme began her career with the Vic Wells Ballet in 1936 but made little mark there and her first important roles came when she joined International Ballet in 1941; they included the Lilac Fairy in *Aurora's Wedding*, Olivia in *Twelfth Night* and Chiarina in *Carnaval*. During 1944 she danced in musicals and in the ballet in the children's play *The Glass Slipper*. There she first worked with the dancers of Ballet Rambert which she joined the following year.

Rambert undertook a long tour of Australia in 1947, and Graeme stayed on to direct a new National Theatre ballet founded in Melbourne. Her chief contribution was in providing strong support for her colleagues Rex Reid, perhaps the most notable Australian choreographer of the time, and the teacher Margaret Scott. She returned to Britain in 1951 and worked with Festival Ballet, then briefly again with Rambert before going to La Scala, Milan in 1955 as a teacher.

From 1962 until she retired to Dorset in 1969, she taught in London, with the skating champion John Curry among her pupils. In 1964, Jack Carter persuaded her back on stage to create the role of the widowed eldest sister in his ballet *Agriona* for London Dance Theatre. This put themes from the Greek myths of Dionysus into the setting of a family during the first world war and suffused a gruesome plot with feelings of exceptional strength and humanity. It was possibly Carter's best ballet and probably Graeme's best role.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Torquato Tasso, poet, Sorrento, 1544; William Huskisson, statesman, Birch Mireton, Worcestershire, 1770; Marius Petipa, choreographer, Marseilles, 1819; Sir Malcolm Campbell, holder of speed records on land and water, Chislehurst, Kent, 1885.

DEATHS: Hannah Cowley, dramatist and poet, Tiverton, 1809; Sir Alexander Mackenzie, explorer in North America, Mulnain, Dunkeld, 1820; Benjamin West, painter, president of the Royal Academy, 1792-1820, London, 1820; Sir James Outram, general, Pau, France, 1863; Henry Drummond, theologian, Tunbridge Wells, 1897; Rolf Boirewood, pseudonym of Thomas A. Browne, novelist, Melbourne, 1915; Victor Hely-Hutchinson, composer, London, 1947; Sir Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin, Nobel laureate 1945, London, 1955; Richard Byrd, aviator and Polar explorer, Boston, Massachusetts, 1957; Earl Stanley Gardner, crime writer, Temecula, California, 1970.

Luddite riots began, 1811. Bradfield reservoir, Sheffield, burst its banks and over 250 people were drowned, 1864.

York stone

One of York's largest limestone buildings this century is to be built between Lendal Bridge and Tanners Row as the new headquarters for General Accident Life Developments, after winning an architectural competition.

Designed by the Manchester office of the Hurd Rolland Partnership, the £15m five-storey office block will rise within the medieval city walls with baize and oriels, and heavily mullioned and transomed windows, under a steeply pitched Westmorland green slate roof.

Patrick Nuttgens, the writer and former director of Leeds Polytechnic, described it as "a model for a properly articulated commercial development of an appropriate scale," for the city.

Eric Kemp

Bond of truth and unity

IT IS a pity that in an otherwise positive and interesting interview, Dr George Carey should have said two things which have given deep offence. Whether or not the Church of England does resemble an "elderly lady muttering ancient platitudes through toothless gums" the expression has been found offensive by some elderly people.

Wider offence has been caused by his use of the words "a most serious heresy" in the context of opposition to the ordination of women to the priesthood. Like the unfortunate use of the word obscene in a recent pronouncement by another bishop, these things do underline the importance of careful choice of language, as an element in pastoral responsibility.

Dr Carey has withdrawn the word heresy and substituted the words fundamental error to describe insistence on maleness as an essential attribute of priesthood. One can sympathise with him in trying to compress what is a big subject into the brief sentences of an interview and a press release. Involved in what he said are the questions of the nature of Christ's humanity and the significance of his incarnation as a man, the relation of his humanity to the royal priesthood in which all the baptised participate and the relation of that royal priesthood to the ordained priesthood of bishop and presbyter.

Behind these are other questions which have been raised, in the course of the debate about the ordination of women. They include the significance of the fatherhood of God as revealed in the scriptures, the purpose of God in creating the human race as male and female, the determinative character of the biblical revelation and the significance of Christ's incarnation at a particular time in history and in a particular cultural setting. I do not claim to have an answer to all these questions but the fact that they have been, and still are, the subject of serious debate makes me cautious about acting as if they were settled.

The use of the word heresy shows how closely the issue of the ordination of women to the priesthood is connected for some people with the doctrine of the Incarnation. For some of its proponents the full humanity of Christ requires that there be woman priests, with the implication that the ministerial priesthood in the church has been defective all the centuries since the time of Christ. It has seemed to me that as the debate has gone on in the past two decades, the theological issues raised have become more and more central and important.

Dr Carey's intervention has paradoxically strengthened the argument that the issues raised by the ordination of women to the priesthood are so serious that a decision which would lead to action can only properly be taken ecumenically and not by individual churches or provinces for themselves. The ministerial priesthood belongs to the whole church, not just to part of it. In this matter truth and unity must go hand in hand.

The question of authority in the church is one which the Anglican Communion has raised especially in the past two Lambeth conferences and to which it has as yet found no answer. To press ahead as if that question was settled can only cause further division and that is already apparent. To do so is a strange way of embarking on the decade of evangelism.

I feel this acutely as president of the Church Union whose declared principal purpose is to bring all to worship God in trinity of persons and unity of substance, and to confess our Lord Jesus Christ as God and man, and whose primary object is to promote and renew catholic faith and life within the Church of England. The union is doing important work in mission and renewal, among children and young people, in theological study and social concern and in other fields.

Nevertheless, all that it tries to do is overshadowed and hampered by the continuing controversy about the ordination of women to the priesthood. It will seem to many catholic Anglicans that if that comes about, the integrity of the ministerial priesthood and the Church of England's claim to be a part of the catholic church will have been gravely impaired. Therein lies a major problem for the decade of evangelism.

The writer is Bishop of Chichester.

Horticulture

McBean's orchids take on a golden glow

By ALAN TOODGOOD, HORTICULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

OVER the chilly grey weekend London was treated to the exotic colour and warmth of a spectacular orchid show, organised by the British Orchid Growers' Association.

The Old Horticultural Hall in Westminster was spanned from wall to wall by an exhibit from McBean's Orchids, of Cooksbridge, East Sussex, which was awarded a gold medal. The large mixed display of mainly McBean's own hybrids featured pink and white phalaenopsis (moth orchids) and boldly blotched odontoglossums which dripped from mossy trees. Cymbidiums, from blush pink through dusky pinks to mahogany shades, formed further eye-catching groups.

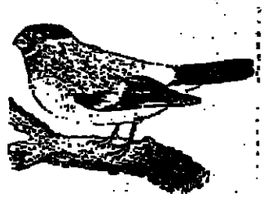
Another highlight of the show was *Lycaste* Hera 'Golden Orb' with sumptuous waxy light yellow flowers, each with a gold lip, exhibited by Dr H. F. Oakeley, of Beckenham, Kent, in a large group of lycastes. The plant was judged grand champion hybrid.

The grand champion species, and best specimen orchid, was a huge plant of *Coelogyne cristata* 'Glacier Mint' carrying hundreds of wavy white yellow-throated flowers on pendulous stems. It was included in a mixed group staged by Gill and David Oakey, of Croydon, south London.

The grand champion paphiopedilum was Emeraldissimo 'Chilton' with large shiny waxy lime-green and yellow flowers. It was in a large group of these slipper orchids staged by Ratcliffe Orchids, of Owslebury, near Winchester, Hampshire.

Nature notes

BULLFINCHES are attacking the flower-buds on pear and apple trees. Williams and Conference pears are among their favourites. They eat the nourishing centre of the bud, which is the embryo of the fruit. But where there are still plenty of seeds on ash-trees, they are less likely to turn to buds for their food.



BULLFINCH

Hawfinches are also feeding on buds, especially oak buds, as last year's hawthorn berries and sycamore seeds come to an end. Both species are just beginning to sing, though their songs are not often heard: the bullfinch's is a low, creaky warble delivered deep in the bushes, while the hawfinch's is a brief splutter of notes high in the tree tops. Collared doves are singing noisily, and performing their gliding display flights over many village high streets.

On yew trees, the small yellow male flowers are bright among the leaves; the green female flowers, which are usually on a separate tree, are more easily overlooked. The yellow lesser celandines are opening; this time last year they were already fading. Sweet violets and colt's-foot are in flower; queen bumble bees that hibernated in a hole in the ground are out looking for the first spring nectar.

DJM

God's divine power has given us everything we need to live a truly religious life through our knowledge of the one who called us to share in his own goodness and glory. 2 Peter 1 : 3 G.N.B

BIRTHS

HADDEN - On March 8.1991, to Belinda (née Bennett) and Abel, a daughter, Camilla,a sister for Leo, Chloe and Madeleine.

KAYE - on March 5th to Jill (née Sandeman) and Joe, a daughter Laura Jane.

KOMISOU - On March 5th, at The Portland Hospital, to Andree and George, a daughter, Alexandra.

LARKINS - On March 8th, to Carol (née Mackenzie) and Derik, a son, Hamish William Roy Mackenzie, a brother for Harriet.

OLDROYD - On March 6th, at The Portland Hospital, to (Gaylene and Christopher, a daughter, Marlene.

SALMON - On March 7th, at The Portland Hospital, to Mary and Patrick, a daughter, Klera Kathleen Mary.

ADOPTIONS

JACKSON - On March 4th, finally, to Liz (née Fletcher) and Simon, a daughter, Kizzy, now aged 8 years, a sister for Henry.

DEATHS

ANDERSON - On March 8th, at home after a full and happy life, J.S. (Jack) Anderson, beloved husband of the late Dorothy. Much loved by his sons Jonathan, Ian, Andrew, his grandchildren and family. Private cremation. Memorial service at Christchurch, Radlett at 11.45am on March 14th. Donations if desired to Home Farm Trust Ltd, direct. Flowers if desired maybe sent to Phillips Funeral Service, 68 Alma Rd. St Albans (0727) 51006.

ANDERSON - On March 2nd, Eileen E. Anderson, beloved daughter of the late Gordon James and Elizabeth Anderson and dear friend of Martin Chess. Private service will be held. A woman of charity, at her request a Chair will be established in her name at St Vincent's Hospital: New York for the study of geriatrics.

BANGAY - On March 9th, at Cranwell, Marjorie, aged 84 years. County Councillor, widow of Squadron Leader Bill Bangay, Royal Air Force College. Mother of John and Gerald. Funeral Wednesday March 13th 11.30 am at Cranwell Village Church.

BREAKELL - On March 6th, suddenly at Hermanus, South Africa, Paul Fitzroy. Cremation to South Africa. Memorial Service to be held in U.K. at a later date.

CRICK - On March 6th, peacefully after a long illness very bravely borne, Margaret Phillis, will be sadly missed by her daughters and grandchildren. Funeral Service on Tuesday March 19th at 10.30 am at The Carmelite Church, Kensington Church Street. London W8.

DANSIE - On March 6th 1991, peacefully in hospital, Elizabeth, dearly loved wife of the late Derek Crown, formerly of Kenya and Ireland, and a loving mother of Pam. Memorial Service at St Matthias at the Link, Malvern, on March 16th at 4.30 pm.

HAHN - On February 23rd 1991, George, Writer, late of Grove End House, Grove End Road, NW8 - leaving friends Charles, Janis, Jules and Tanya.

HARDMAN - On March 7th 1991, peacefully, Barbara Pauline, aged 74 years. Widow of David, loving mother of Jeremy and Jennifer and grandmother to Clair and Ben. Donations. If desired, for the Imperial Cancer Research Fund may be sent to Frank Davey & Co., 31 High Street, Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex BN6 9YT tel: (0273) 832179.

HILL - On March 7th, in a car accident in Zimbabwe, Nona, widow of Charles, mother of Alan, Paul, Sally, Richard, David and Grandmother of many. Service of Thanksgiving to be arranged in Shropshire in April.

JONES - On 6th March 1991, Edgar Wilfred, beloved husband of Jo.

SUGG-On March 6th 1991, Margaret(née di Marco) aged 43,"sadly missed by Philip, Judith, Eleanor, family and friends. Funeral service in The Chapel, East Sheen Cemetery, Sheen Rd. SW14 at 2pm on Wednesday March 13th. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to Princess Alice Hospice, West End Road, Esher, Surrey. KT10 8NA.

SIMPSON - On March 7th 1991, peacefully in Tunbridge Wells, Cynthia Hamilton Simpson (née Shallow), loved wife of the late Group Captain P.J. Simpson DSO, DFC, adored mother of Lindsay and a very special grandmother to Peter. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Hadlow on Wednesday 13th March 1991 at 2.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations to RAF Benevolent Fund, 67 Portland Place, London W1. All enquiries to W & F Groombridge Tel: 0732 353964. Rest in Peace.

WYMER - On March 6th, Elizabeth Mary Grisell Swanson, of Bromley (previously of Chislehurst) Kent. Widow of Frank. Funeral Service at St Nicholas Church, Chislehurst, at 1.15 pm. Monday March 18th, followed by Interment at Chislehurst Cemetery, Beaverwood Road, Chislehurst. Enquiries to C.H. Davidson of Woolsey Morris & Kennedy (Solicitors), tel: (081) 300-9321. Donations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2 or flowers to W. Uden & Sons, 64 High Street, Sidcup, by 11.30 am on day of funeral.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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ASAIN grateful thanks to S.H.J. and St. Jude for innumerable favours received.

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SW11 M/F to share 4 bed refurbished house, all mod cons. 15 mins tube. Suit couple. £250 pcm her. £55 pw incl. 071-223 6584

SW18 Single room in lux 3 bed flat. Prof m/f. £180 pcm excl. Tel: 081-879 1190 (Eves).

TOOTING Broadway. 3 prof pts m/f share newly decorated four bed house, gdn. £260 per month p.p Day 071 2428613 (ext 126) or 081 7672805 e

TUNBRIDGE WELLS large room to let in luxury flat in centre of Tunbridge Wells. Own bath, room and cooking facilities. Professional non smoker preferred. £70 pw. 0892 546869.

WANDSWORTH Vic bsr, refurb recently, 3rd person to share, 10 mins BR, all mod cons, £240 pcm excl. W 071-405 6900 ext 242. H 081-874 8812.

WANDSWORTH/Balham O/R in lux fully equipped house-own bathroom, 8 mins tube/BR, close to common. £55 pw Inc. Tel evenings 081 673 2230.

WS Bdr contained top floor studio flat in Victorian house. 6 months. Fully furnished. In quiet attractive street. £421pcm inc Gas & Elec. Tel extns. Ring: 071-748 8966 (after 6.30pm)

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ACCOMMODATION Urgently req for City Institutions. Call us with your properties to let. Sebastian Estates 071 381 4996

ALBERT SQ. Lux. 4 bed house, private devp. Parking 2 cars. £750 pw. 071-381 7767 T

ALLEN BATES & CO have a selection of furnished flats. 1 bedroom upwards in Central London areas. Available for lets of 1 week plus. From £250 pw plus. 071-436 6666.

AMERICAN BANK of Senior Executives from multi-national corporations urgently require luxury flats & houses for 2-5 years. Rental allowances £250 - £3,000 pw. SW1/ 3/ 7. W8. Burgess Estates 071-381 5135.

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AT PUTNEY Luxury, f/furn. 2 bed flat. river views. £245 p.w. Tel 071 731 1407 T

BARBICAN. Lge bright tastefully furn dble bed flat. Recep, study, f/f kit, balcony, lift, porterage. C.H. £210 pw + electric meter. No let pref. Tel: 081-992 6166

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BELSIZE PARK Large s/c studio flat, suit single or couple. £135 pw. Tel: 071 794 3143.

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BOSCOMBE RD W12. Beautiful family hse, 4 beds, dbl recep, dining rm, kit/diner, lge gdn. £480 pw neg. F.W. Capp 071-243 0964.

BROMPTON Pk SW6 Superb lux 2 dbl bed dbl f/d, ovrlkg pool nr tube. £250 pw 071-381 4998 t

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CHELSEA Short let. lux period flat. 2 bedrms, pvt gdn, avail about 20th March. for 3 mths. Refs req. £320 pw. 071-373 6407.

EUROPEAN & American Bankers & Diplomats urgently require luxury flats & houses in Belgravia, Knightsbridge, Chelsea & Pimlico. Contact Keith Carlisle Groves. 071-730 6191

FW GAFF (Management Services) Ltd Require properties in central & south & west London areas for waiting applicants. Tel: 071-243 0944.

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HOLLAND PK Bright, furn gdn chalet bed, inc rm, kit/d, C.H. £110 pw. 071-727 0666.

HYDE PARK W2. lux Penthouse furn flat. 2 dble beds. 1 recep, kit and bath. CH. £230 pw 071 723 0486

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KENSINGTON, Bright, 1 bed maisonette. Bargain £160 pw. 071-376 2666 T

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KENSINGTON. Lovely, 2 bed flat in a block, recep, k & b. £225 pw. 071-602 8757 T

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MARYLEBONE W1. Superb, lge lux 2 dbl bed flat 2 bath. Bargain. £250 pw. 071-381 4998 t

MAYFAIR. Superb. 1 bed flat on Piccadilly. Avail now to print Sale. £230 pw. 081-749 2122 T

MAYFAIR Lux. 2 bed, exec flat. nr roof terrace, suit couple/exec let. £675 pw. 081-749 2122 T

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NO FEES required. Re-location Co. need empty furn 2/3 bed flats/hses, close tube, all areas. Long Co let. 071-376 3896.

NOTTING HILL W11. Bright luxury 1 bed sc flat. Close transport £165pw 081 969 6058.

NW10 3 bedroom semi-det. £200pw. Nr Dollis Hill tube. All amenities081-458 9438

PIMLICO. Ideal. 1 bedroom flat. all newly dec. 2 min tube. £150 pw. 071-351 7767 T

SERVICED APARTMENTS - Chelsea. Well sited. Restaurant, late night shopping. Furnished studio & 1 bed flats from £220 pw. Min 1 night. Letting Dept. Neil Gwynn House. Sloane Ave London SW3. 071-584 8317. TX:916388 NGHLDN.

SLOANE SQUARE. Bright, attractive, 2nd floor flat. dbl bedroom, recep, kit & bath. lift. ch. £180 pw. 071-584 8501 T

SOUTH KENSINGTON 2 mins tube. Would suit non smoking prof. 2 double bedrooms. F/F kitchen. Lounge. £220pw, 08047 22135 (9 to 5) 05047 56606 (after 6).

SPECIAL 6 bed, 3 bath luxury family house in Wandsworth with garage and 120 foot south facing garden, fully furnished for 1 year rental. £600 pw or nearest offer. 081 877 9144.

SW1. Lux. 1 bed flat. river views. ch & hw inc. £170 pw. 081-998 8902 T

SW1 Elegantly furnished bright 1st flr dble bath. f/f kit. w/m. gdn bed. lots of cupboards. £180 pw. Dauntons 071 630 1141

SW1 St George's Sq. Magnificent brand new ground flr 2 bed flat. 20' recep, dining area, well fitted kit. d/w, w/m, many bells. luxury ensuite bath. 2nd bath. large private garden. £285 pw. Dauntons 071 630 1141

URGENTLY Required for european banker: 2 bedroom apt in K'bridge, South Ken, Chelsea areas. 071 370 6435 (t)

WANDSWORTH SW17. Luxury newly modernised 5 bed house. Fitted kit/ carpets throughout. Unfurnished. Min. 6 months let. £575 pw. Tel: 081-761 5400.

WESTMINSTER GDNS lge, lux 4 bed designer apt. Panoramic bkg. secs clngs & hot water inc. Ensuite bath/shower in all bedrooms. £1,000 pw. Tel: 081 679 7078 E - 081 767 7365 D.

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CLAPHAM COMM. Charming 4 bed 2 bath house, nice area. £360 pw nets. 071-351 7767 T

CLAPHAM. Superb, bright, lux. 2 bed flat. ff kit. gdn. nr tube. Bryn £160 pw. 071-381 4998 t

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SITUATIONS WANTED

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COMPANY NOTICES

QUEBEC CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY
Notice to Security Holders
The Annual General Meeting of the Security Holders of Quebec Central Railway Company will be held in The Conference Room, Room 155, Windsor Station, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, on Wednesday, the 17th day of April, 1991, at the hour of 11.00 o'clock in the forenoon for the purposes of the financial statements; the election of two directors to represent the Security Holders of the Company until the next Annual General Meeting of the Company; the appointment of the auditor of the Company, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
P. Bernadet
Assistant Secretary
MONTREAL, Quebec.
February 21, 1991

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
National - Charity The Jean Sainsbury Charitable Trust
The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for the Charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX quoting reference SJ56386/A/1-(CD (LDN1)). Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

CLARK, EMILY CLARK Spinster late of 28 Spring Edge, Hellifax, West Yorkshire died There on 4th May 1989

(Estate about £8,000)

CRONE nee FENNELL, PHYLLIS IRENE CRONE nee FENNELL Widow late of 3 Barrows Lane, Stretton, Keighley, West Yorkshire died There on or about 3rd March 1990

(Estate about £60,000)

CSONKA, EVA MARTA MARY CSONKA Spinster late of 69 Birch Road, Sidcup, Kent died At Sidcup on 21st May 1989

(Estate about £71,730)

FREAME, LESLIE FREDERICK JOHN FREAME late of 19 Tadburn Green, Lordswood, Chatham, Kent died at Gillingham, Kent on 3rd December 1989

(Estate about £96,000)

PEARCE, ARTHUR SIDNEY PEARCE late of 41 Cheriton Road, Welling, Kent died There on or about 4th January 1990

(Estate about £7,000)

RONAYNE, DECLAN RICHARD otherwise **RONAYNE** late of 5 Salcombe, Hamsworth, London W6 died At Fulham, London W6 on 25th June 1989

(Estate about £7,400)

ROWLAND, ALFRED NORMAN ROWLAND late of 83 Stanmington Crescent, Totton, Hampshire died at Southampton, Hampshire on 25th January 1990

(Estate about £76,000)

SETCHFIELD late **CHARBONNIER, SUZANNE SETCHFIELD** otherwise **SUZANNE ODETTE GINA SETCHFIELD** nee **CHARBONNIER** Widow late of 27 Station Road, Manea, March, Cambridgeshire died There on 12th June 1990

(Estate about £69,000)

The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (B.V.), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London, SW1H 9JS, stating which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

LEGAL NOTICES

HEAVEN RECRUITMENT LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of The Insolvency Act, 1986, that a Meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of LEONARD CURTIS & CO., situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, 02nd Floor, London, W2 6LF, on Tuesday, the 26th day of March, 1991 at 12.00 noon for the purposes provided for in Section 98 of sas.
A list of the names and addresses of the above Company's Creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
Dated the 28th day of February 1991
STEPHEN SCANNELL
Director

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
PROTEA ESTATES LIMITED
Registered number: 1428132. Nature of business: Property development. Trade classification: 35. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 1 March 1991. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Barclays Bank Plc. JGA Prattles (office holder No 6481) and AM Homan (office holder No 6650) Joint Administrative Receivers. Address: Price Waterhouse No 1 London Bridge London SE1

When death stood by the dentist's chair

A routine operation left Kimberley Bergalis dying of Aids — and inflamed the debate on whether HIV-positive medical practitioners should disclose the fact. Susan Ellicott reports



Waiting to die: Kimberley Bergalis has established a tragic first, by being infected with Aids during treatment by a bisexual dentist

Kimberly Bergalis is terminally ill with Aids transmitted by her dentist during treatment. At the age of 23, she is the first person in the United States believed to have contracted the disease in such a way. Two other patients say they also contracted the Aids virus from the same man, a bisexual who died last year.

In December 1987, Dr David Acer extracted two of Ms Bergalis's wisdom teeth in a routine operation. A month later, she suffered [illegible] from a sore throat. [illegible] erupted on her [illegible] thought nothing of these symptoms until, just over a year later, when she was about to graduate from the University of Florida with a degree in finance, they returned. This time, however, her throat was lined with white patches which a doctor told her was oral thrush, commonly caused by diabetes, antibiotics or Aids.

"I said, 'It's not Aids,' so we checked out my blood sugar thinking that I might be diabetic because my grandfather is," Ms Bergalis says. Her voice is deceptively cheerful for a young woman who had undergone a semi-weekly blood transfusion a day earlier in Miami, which had also involved a five-hour round-trip from her home in Fort Pierce, Florida. She has lost more than 10lb in the past three weeks.

The test showed that her blood sugar level was fine, she says, but her health declined sharply over the following months, including a rapid loss of weight and hair, night sweats and breathing problems. While physicians considered stress and hepatitis as possible causes, she became so weak that she ended up in a hospital with pneumonia. Here, in December 1989, a test established she was HIV positive. A month later, she was found to have full-blown Aids.

Doctors questioned her about the most intimate details of her sex life, family relationships and use of intravenous drugs, but drew a blank as to the cause of her infection. Finally, her mother, a nurse, recalled hearing rumours that Dr Acer possibly had Aids. At first, the doctors doubted there could be a link. Then the Centres for Disease Control (CDC), based in Atlanta, Georgia, ran a DNA test on her blood, and that of Dr Acer, and said it was 99.94 per cent certain that Ms Bergalis's virus matched the dentist's.

In September last year, Dr Acer took out an advertisement in his local newspaper, two days before he died of complications related to Aids. "I am sorry I cannot tell you this face to face", he wrote, "but I am dying of this disease. I am very close to the end. I have been putting my affairs in order and saying goodbye to my family. It is my desire to die in private peace and quiet with as much dignity as possible." He urged his 700 or so patients to be tested for Aids if they were worried, but said he did not believe he could have passed on the virus because he had followed CDC guidelines designed to block the exchange of bodily fluids, including blood and saliva. In the open letter, he said he would have stopped practising if he had thought the barrier techniques of facial masks and surgical gloves were inadequate to protect his patients from infection.

Dr Acer did not correctly sterilise equipment, and re-used disposable items

Of the 200 patients who took an Aids test, two came up HIV positive: Barbara Webb, aged 65, a retired English teacher, married for 41 years with three children and eight grandchildren, and Rick Driskill, aged 31, a citrus worker with a daughter, aged 11. The spouses of both tested negative.

The three Acer cases have prompted a furious debate among the American medical community, gay activists, the public and civil rights groups over whether doctors, dentists, dental hygienists, surgeons, nurses and other professionals should tell patients if they are HIV positive or have Aids before carrying out any treatment likely to expose the bodily fluids that transmit the virus.

Ms Bergalis, who says she does not know how long she will live, has since made it her mission to press for tougher federal and state rules of disclosure. Last year, when she was physically stronger, and before Dr Acer died, she appeared on national talk-shows and began to write a book about her experience as the first person to go public with an Aids case against a healthcare worker.

Aids activists oppose her efforts, arguing that the risk to the public is minuscule and that mandatory testing of healthcare workers, if introduced, could extend to patients, leading to likely discrimination on both sides. For the first time, medical representative bodies, including the American Medical and Dental associations, have started to suggest that dentists, physicians and surgeons should tell patients if they are infected, or perform surgery in emergencies only.

Nobody, least of all the medical community, wants to blow the Acer cases out of proportion. "The public can latch on to this and have a really difficult time separating a dental visit from the emotional issue of contracting a fatal disease," says Phil Glatstein, a dentist who has had a private practice in Miami for 40 years. "Even if we assume that all three of these were infected by this dentist, the [overall] probability is minuscule." The CDC has estimated that between 13 and 128 Americans might have been infected with the Aids virus by their dentists or surgeons during treatment in the past 10 years of the epidemic. Between 1 million and 1.5 million Americans are estimated to be carrying the Aids virus. The CDC estimates that 50,000 healthcare workers are HIV positive and that, of the additional 5,000 who have full-blown Aids, 42 are surgeons and 156 are dentists. Ms Bergalis is the only proven Aids case among patients, although others in low-risk categories have possibly escaped detection if their infection has been put down to other factors, such as a blood transfusion.

'I really don't like to think about it, because that's not going to benefit me'

For doctors and dentists, the risk of contracting Aids from a patient is still far higher than the other way around. The safest way to proceed, Dr Glatstein says, is to assume everybody has Aids and to take maximum precautions. For his own peace of mind as well as that of his patients, he insists upon an Aids test whenever any blood is taken from him, such as in a routine medical.

Among medical professionals, the widespread view is that healthcare workers should decide themselves if they wish to undergo Aids tests. The CDC held a conference last month on the risks of Aids transmission from doctors to patients, but will not release its conclusions until later this year. Mandatory testing seems unlikely to be among its recommendations.

Meanwhile, Ms Bergalis runs errands, writes letters and tries to swim. Bob Montgomery, her lawyer, settled a $1 million (£530,000) lawsuit with Dr Acer's malpractice insurers, a unit of the Chicago-based CNA Corporation, several weeks ago. According to Mr Montgomery, Dr Acer was a "sloppy dentist" who did not correctly sterilise equipment, re-used disposable items and used the same dental instruments to examine his patients as on his own Aids-related mouth sores. Mrs Webb and Mr Driskill are also suing the insurance firm, while Mr Montgomery is seeking further negligence damages for Ms Bergalis from the dental health plan that ordered her to see Dr Acer.

Ms Bergalis says she cannot tell if she would have gone to Dr Acer if he had told her that he had Aids. She hesitates when asked how she feels about Dr Acer now. "It's confusing, because a part of me is angry," she says. "But on the other hand I never had problems with him [as a dentist]. I really don't like to think about it, because it gets me stressed out and that's not going to benefit me."

Cutting down the risk

As in the United States, the risk of an infected British doctor or dentist transmitting HIV to a patient is extremely low, according to the Royal College of Surgeons. The college says there is much more chance of a surgeon being infected by a patient, because the surgeon is likely to be exposed to a larger amount of infected blood than the patient.

In guidelines published in December, the college says patients undergoing operations may be tested for HIV while they are unconscious if a surgeon is injured during the procedure.

In such rare circumstances, taking a test without the patient's consent is justifiable, according to Sir Terence English, the president of the college. A positive test result could allow the surgeon to be treated quickly with zidovudine, or AZT, the anti-Aids drug that could delay the onset of infection.

The guidelines recommend that a surgeon who suspects a patient may have the virus should offer the test, even in emergency operations. If the patient refuses, extra precautions against infection should be taken during surgery. A surgeon with HIV would have to give up invasive work, to prevent any patient becoming infected accidentally, Sir Terence said.

The General Medical Council and the British Medical Association say that any doctor or healthcare worker who was HIV positive would have to avoid invasive procedures that could cause patients to become infected.

The government's expert advisory group on Aids has said that there is "an extremely small theoretical risk" of HIV transmission to patients if surgeons or doctors injured themselves in such a way that their blood contaminated the patient's blood.

In Britain, two doctors have died of Aids: a kidney consultant in 1987 and a surgeon in 1988. The surgeon was believed to have been infected with HIV while practising in Africa. The mode of transmission in the consultant's case was not disclosed.

Both gave up work when diagnosed and hundreds of their patients were tested, but none was found to be infected.

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A stranger joins the queue

The Germans have fired the opening shots in what could be a grocery war

ONE wonders what Sir Jack Cohen, the founder of Tesco, would have made of this unorthodox exercise in public relations. "You from the press?" asks the fresh-faced, young manager of the Aldi supermarket in Handsworth, Birmingham. I nod, and he keeps on walking to his office door, 20 yards away. There he turns and says: "Sorry, no interviews. It's company policy." A security man then escorts me from the building.

Welcome to the anonymous, slightly alarming face of Nineties grocery shopping. With no razzmatazz, Aldi, Germany's biggest supermarket chain, has emerged over the past year, with the aim of disturbing the comfortable hegemony of British groups grown rich purveying guavas and salami in softly lit emporia. In UK supermarkets, a 7 per cent return on sales is normal; delicatessen items bring profits as high as 30 per cent. Aldi is used to margins of just 2 per cent. Where Aldi does coincide with Tesco, though, is in its marketing philosophy: pile it high, sell it cheap and watch them roll in.



'I wouldn't buy my Christmas dinner there. But times are hard'

Since the first Aldi store opened in Stechford, Birmingham, in April 1990, it has established a chain of 17 outlets, mainly in the west Midlands and the northwest.

Typically, the Handsworth store is no purpose-built hypermarket on the edge of town. It is in one of the most deprived residential areas in Britain, the scene of race riots after a carnival in 1985. Outside there is little to announce it, except a modest car park. Inside, the main features are panelling and cream tiles. Down two aisles groceries are stacked in boxes. Their brand names make them unfamiliar: Diplomat tea, Alcafé instant coffee, Merrifield sugar. The country of supply is seldom given.

One looks in vain for avocados or kiwi fruit, and the two cashiers ring up every item by hand. But customers are unconcerned. Mary Eve and her husband, John, a retired engineer, come from Sutton Coldfield, eight miles away. "The food's limited," she admits, "but it's got everything you'd normally want." Her 300 grams of Westside ginger snaps cost 29p, compared with "at least 35p", elsewhere, she says.

The average Aldi store carries 500 product lines, compared with 12,000 in Sainsbury's. This is good enough for John Pickett, an ironmonger, who was shopping for a pensioners' club run by his wife. "Nowhere in Birmingham can you get sugar for less than 59p [a kilo]," he says. "Here it is 53p. On a bill of £25 on average you can be £3 better off." Morna Dodd, a mother of six, is more equivocal: "Put it this way, I wouldn't buy my Christmas dinner there. But times are hard."

The British retailing market is worth £35 billion a year, with the top five groups — Tesco, Asda, Sainsbury's, Gateway and Argyll (trading as Safeway and Presto) — accounting for 60 per cent. Tony De Angeli, the managing editor of *The Grocer*, does not expect the big boys to be affected. If anyone suffers, he says, it will be smaller retailers or secondary chains such as Kwik Save, which are already trying to do what Aldi does.

Trevor Coates, the managing director of Aldi Stores, said it was company policy not to talk to the press. However, he confirmed certain details of his operations "off the record". Aldi, a family-owned company, based in Düsseldorf, has 2,500 outlets worldwide, including the United States. Other sources show that Aldi is owned by the secretive Albrecht brothers, Karl and Theo. Their distaste for publicity stems from 1971, when Theo was kidnapped and the family paid £800,000 in ransom. But some retailers fear this reticence masks a plan to gain a significant percentage of the British grocery market.

Sainsbury's refuses to be ruffled. "Their aggressive pricing policy partly reflects their limited investment in technology and customer service, both of which play a large part in our operations," a spokesman says. Price versus service: it will be an interesting battle in a recession.

ANDREW LYCETT

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"Training and Enterprise Councils are a gamble that has paid off"



From April Fool's Day, Britain's businessmen will have £2.4 billion to spend on training. Can they handle it?

TES
THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT
Friday



BRIEFING

Rosier prospect

THE future of the Rose Theatre site, near Southwark Bridge, which would have had no future at all but for the action of a battalion of actors led by Dame Peggy Ashcroft, is to be the subject of an exhibition at the Museum of London, which Dame Peggy will open on March 25. The exhibition will tell the story of the excavation and project what happens next. Two years ago, actors joined hands to stop the bulldozers coming on the site: those bitter days appear to be over, since Imry Merchant Developers are co-sponsoring the display.

Dress dosh

TO FINANCE its revival of *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*, English National Opera is turning to its own audience. ENO is seeking individual sponsors for Shostakovich's opera, which opens on June 6. For a pledge of £25, £100 or £600, sponsors are promised a programme credit and two seats for the dress rehearsal. The appeal is not falling on deaf ears: half of the £50,000 target has already been reached.



Self-financing: *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*

Good innings

TIM Burton is becoming the Steven Spielberg of the Nineties, offering audiences his own special vision of American suburbia and his own weird slant on cartoon heroes. With *Edward Scissorhands* such a hit in America, Burton and his producer Denise DiNovi now have signed on for Warner's *Batman 2*, the studio obviously hoping Burton will repeat the success he enjoyed with the first *Batman* film. Shooting is scheduled to start this summer.

Last chance...

HARLEM-born soul singer, Freddie Jackson, has few peers as a live performer. He has been seducing audiences around the country with his bravura displays of vocal technique, knockabout humour and enthusiasm, and plays his final show tomorrow at the Bristol Hippodrome (0272 299444).

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Reputations stumble in dance of time

A ten-year festival of 20th-century arts will prompt a reappraisal, argues Richard Morrison





Arbiter and wayward giant: Simon Rattle (above left) will be conducting *The Firebird*, by Igor Stravinsky (above right) in the opening concerts of "Towards the Millennium"

According to Simon Rattle, his celebration of our century's art which begins in Birmingham tomorrow and ends in about ten years' time, will not be "a concise encyclopedia of the 20th century". Despite its astonishing ambition – it surveys one decade per year, so that the year 2,000 will see a festival of art not yet conceived – "Towards the Millennium" is apparently striving to make only "playful" connections.

Rattle is too modest. He is the finest conductor of his generation, presenting a monumental survey of the century in which he lives. Future historians will gleefully regard the choices in "Towards the Millennium" as a time capsule: "Look! this is what those crazy late 20th-century audiences were listening to." For the only certain thing about the next century is that it will regard much of our taste in art as lamentable, quaint or simply incomprehensible. Next centuries always do.

So what is the value of value-judgements? Since one generation's masterpieces are often rubbished by the next, why do we place such trust in the "canons of masterpieces" postulated by critics?

Take one example: Mendelssohn's oratorios spoke so clearly to the Victorians that they were hailed as supreme musical statements; now we would not place them in the first division even of Mendelssohn's output. By contrast, Mahler's symphonies were largely ridiculed by his own generation; now they are played as much as Beethoven's. Tastes change: that is a truism. But when they change this much, the whole basis of artistic evaluation is cast in doubt. Our own era's charming propensity for generating "hype" only exacerbates the feeling of falsity about the label "great".

Little wonder, then, that our age is showing an increasing inability to make up its mind about what it considers good or bad: call it open-mindedness or loss of confidence. That is what makes Rattle's enterprise so magnificent: he is prepared to put his baton where his tastes are. No seeking a safe refuge in "time will tell" for him.

Why is our age so cautious about evaluation? First, Einstein has made his mark, even on the arts. He showed that scientific observation has little value if the observer's position is not also taken into account. That is true about observers of art, too. Any value judgement depends as much on the prejudices and mood of the judge as on the judged.

Second, the last 30 years has seen a deconstructionist revolution in academic thinking about the arts. Feminism and the campaign for racial equality has swept away the notion that European culture is superior to all else. Since the accepted canon of classical music masterpieces is exclusively composed by white male Europeans, it has been an obvious target for the deconstructionists.

Moreover, before about 1963, "light music" knew its place: afterwards, it developed intellectual ambitions. Rock music began to be analysed with desperate seriousness in university sociology departments. A leading British professor of music wrote a book about The Beatles. All this muddied the waters of artistic judgement.

In some ways this open-mindedness is admirable. In his provocative 1987 book, *History and Value*, Professor Frank Kermode examined a body of left-wing literature written in the 1930s and now hardly known. He maintained that because the writers' preoccupations – with supporting Moscow, "doing something" about Franco, or writing for the "proletariat" – may now be considered hopelessly naïve, their writing is dismissed irrespective of its literary merit. He wanted to refute the notion "that to reject the politics of the bourgeois left of the Thirties implies the necessity to reject its art".

In other words, recognise art's value within its own context; don't superimpose prejudices that disqualify it from consideration. Unfortunately, musical history is full of such disqualifications. No composer provoked more than Stravinsky, who will feature prominently in "Towards the Millennium" (*Firebird* is in the opening concert).

The problem, for Stravinsky's fans and foes alike, was that he switched direction so often and unpredictably: his huge, crunchingly asymmetric pre-1914 ballet scores were suddenly replaced by witty, economical music; later he endorsed (in effect) his arch-rival Schoenberg's 12-tone system. He was clearly an intellectual giant. But even the admirably open-minded critic Neville Cardus, who wrote brilliantly about the impact of Stravinsky's early ballets, was provoked to ask, somewhat wearily, nearly half a century later: "Behind all the masks, which is the face, lined with the soul and experience?"

One other response to Stravinsky illustrates perfectly the problem of prejudice in evaluation, if only because Constant Lambert's 1934 book *Music Ho! A Study of Music in Decline* is still upheld as a magisterial piece of robust, pragmatically British, criticism. Lambert was no little Englander; he was a fine composer/conductor who was thoroughly versed in modernist trends – which makes his vitriolic attack on Stravinsky more extraordinary.

Lambert called the *The Rite of Spring* "barbaric music for the supercivilised, an aphrodisiac for the jaded and superficial". As for Stravinsky's reworking of Pergolesi, which produced *Pulcinella* and inaugurated "neo-classicism", Lambert likened it to a child who pencils a moustache on some exquisite Baroque engraving.

> *The next century will regard much of our taste as lamentable. Next centuries always do*

Why did so cultured a commentator utterly misunderstand the dominant artistic figure of his age? The answer surely verifies Kermode's thesis. First, there is an ugly undercurrent of racism in Lambert's opinions. Take this example: "Like a savage standing in delighted awe before those two symbols of alien culture, the top hat and the *pot de chambre*, [Stravinsky] is apt to confuse their functions." And: "Like so many Russians, Stravinsky has adopted and been adopted by a Parisian intellectual world not his by racial right."

Another clue lies in the curious passage where Lambert detects a "darker, D.H. Lawrence quality" in Stravinsky's *Les Noces*. He fears that "at any moment middle-aged Englishwomen are going to slip out of the stalls and join in the singing". What a Freudian hothouse of suppressed desires lies behind that remark!

But the point is that we are all Lamberts: our response to art inevitably mirrors our prejudices. For instance, in the 1960s the same asymmetric rhythms in *The Rite of Spring* that Lambert found so "barbaric" were subjected to intense mathematical analysis by musicologists who wanted to discover Stravinsky's "formula". No less than Lambert, they mirrored their own age: the age of music written by mathematical formula.

In music and drama there is an additional problem about evaluation: the act of performance. Every performance is an evaluation in itself. We call some interpretations "revelatory" – how Bernstein conducted Mahler, for instance, or Rattle's ability to turn Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* into a torrid psycho-drama – but what does "revelatory" mean? Are interpreters revealing something that was in the art unnoticed all along, or are they twisting it into a reflection of their own personalities and eras? Those who have seen Trevor Nunn's new production of *Timon of Athens* – Shakespeare not only *for* our time, but seemingly *about* our time – will know that the question remains pertinent.

In *History and Value* Kermode concludes that a canon of accepted masterpieces is valid after all: these inherited judgements are "the only strong link we have with the past". That is a practical conclusion: an individual's life is too short for each to sift the treasure-chests afresh. But historians are too brutal when they consign some artists to pedestals, some to dustbins, some to this school, some to that "ism". I wish they acknowledged more honestly the arbitrariness of the process. Stravinsky was right. "The era of 'isms' and manifestos ended 15 years ago," he snapped at a journalist who had labelled him neo-classical. "Now you find these things only in the provinces." And that was in 1928.

● *Simon Rattle conducts the CBSO tomorrow in Birmingham Town Hall (021-236 3889) and on Saturday in London at the Festival Hall (071-928 8800)*

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JAZZ

Fellow feeling

Ian Carr, the author of a new study of the virtuoso pianist Keith Jarrett, talks to Clive Davis

Discussing the most controversial pianist in the whole of jazz, Ian Carr does not mince his words: "I can't stand his work. I've tried to enjoy it, I've seen him at concerts, I've sat in at festivals, and I still think it's dire. His music is not art, it's therapy."

Readers with an antipathy to Keith Jarrett will be nodding their heads in agreement. But the subject is Cecil Taylor, godfather of the avant-garde and master of the cluster-bomb keyboard technique. For Keith Jarrett, the *second* most controversial pianist in jazz, Carr is full of admiration and praise. His new biography (published this week by Grafton at £17.99) is a most sympathetic study of the American musician.

Jarrett has been provoking arguments for more than two decades. The debate is not over his technical skill: virtually all agree that he is the most accomplished player of his generation. The question is whether he puts his talents to creative use. To admirers, he is a genius, a flawless improviser who has pushed back the boundaries to embrace ethnic music and the classical repertoire. To detractors, he is a narcissistic purveyor of best-selling background music.

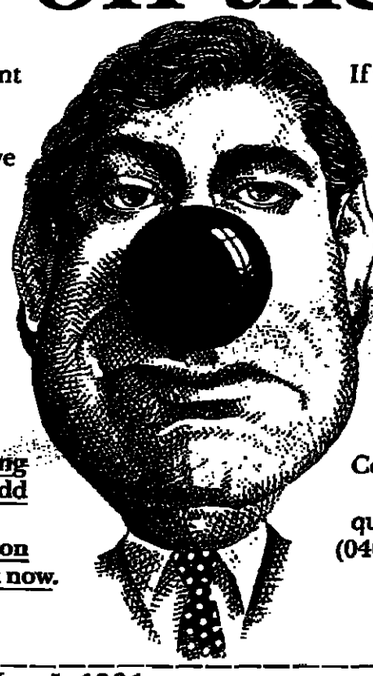
An outstanding trumpeter in his own right, Carr is the author of the standard biography of Miles Davis. He also co-wrote the much-praised reference work *Jazz: The Essential Companion*. He first met Jarrett in 1977 and later presented a Radio 3 series on the pianist. His book is based on lengthy interviews with his subject. An avowed enthusiast, Carr says he attempted to keep a sense of proportion: "I try to be forthright about things I thought were daft. There's the 1968 solo album, *Restoration Ruin*. The lyrics are banal, and he can't sing. I told him that, and he gave a sort of pained laugh."

Jarrett hardly comes across as self-effacing. He describes one of his group's performances as "the most melodious that I've ever heard played by a trio". Yet Carr hints at the vulnerability of the man, describing his efforts, in the Eighties, to overcome financial ruin and a nervous breakdown. The pressures of the endless series of solo recitals are vividly evoked: a crowd once attacked his car because he had played only one encore.

Essentially, Jarrett regards music as a means to a higher consciousness: one of his albums consists of compositions by the Armenian mystic I.G. Gurdjieff. Which brings back the question of art versus therapy. *Tribute*, Jarrett's most recent album of jazz standards, finds him once again raising himself to a state of ecstasy. Yet, to a neutral ear, the improvisation remains uninspiring. The extended solos seem mechanical.

Carr believes the detractors are simply failing to detect the harmonic complexity and the interplay between the musicians: "When you see some of the things the critics write, you realise they aren't actually listening to what's going on." Perhaps. His book will certainly not settle the disputes. But it will encourage some of us to listen to the records with a more sympathetic ear.

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Seduced by earthly appeal

DANCE

Swan Lake
Theatre Royal, Glasgow

PETER Darrell's 1977 production of *Swan Lake* comes up strongly in Scottish Ballet's latest revival. First staged for the centenary of Tchaikovsky's score, it comes closer to the composer's intentions than most British productions. In particular, the first lakeside scene gains dramatically as well as musically from having Odette's solo near the beginning and the duet almost at the end.

Darrell adapted the plot too. While keeping the main outlines of the action, he eliminated the supernatural element, making it instead a struggle of good and evil influences on a young 19th-century princeling. The swan-woman Odette becomes simply Siegfried's drug-crazed vision of ideal purity and innocence. Odile, contrariwise, is a real person, not a magical replica of Odette, although she still represents temptation.

Since the plot hinges on Siegfried's confusion of the two aspects of womanhood, the roles are still played by one dancer, who receives more than usual to dance in this treatment. The so-called "Black Swan" *pas de deux* comes in Act I, where Tchaikovsky intended, danced by Siegfried's demonic friend Benno with Odile to introduce her to the court. Her big scene with Siegfried in Act III is danced instead to the extra music discovered a few years back (familiar now from Balanchine's *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux*): glittery and joyful.



Long-limbed, tender and elegant: Galina Mezentseva in Scottish Ballet's *Swan Lake* in Glasgow

Two performances on Saturday were danced by newcomers to the company. Galina Mezentseva has joined them permanently; her Odette, long-limbed, tender and elegant, is already familiar from appearances with the Kirov Ballet, but her Odile takes on a fresh, almost playful quality in this new context. Robert Hampton as Siegfried and Simon Stewart as the rotter, Benno, give good support in acting and partnering, although both look stretched to their limits in the solos.

The matinee introduced a young Japanese ballerina, Yurie Shinohara. Young, small, she moves with exceptional smoothness, beautiful phrasing and immediately appealing commitment. A slight coolness in her Odette suits the production's presentation of her as an unattainable ideal. She makes Odile a somewhat hoity-toity miss – and no less seductive for that.

Vincent Hantam proves excellently matched as her Siegfried: clean and forceful in his dancing, ardently expressive in his acting. Tristan Borrer completes a trio that sustains excitement and interest throughout.

Peter Cazalet's designs are exceptionally handsome and apt in their mixture of realism and erotic fantasy, and a guest musical director, Adam Gatehouse, stirred the Scottish Ballet orchestra to full-blooded playing.

JOHN PERCIVAL

CONCERTS

Martin Harvey/ Capricorn
Purcell Room

JUST one dotty item marred the trombonist Martin Harvey's Purcell Room recital with the percussionist Simon Allen. That was Ian Willcock's *Face* (1988), an ungrateful combination of rude electronics and a dour reading from the telephone directory. Otherwise all was worthwhile, and much was powerful, nothing more so than Michael Finnissy's *Quabara* (1987-8), for didjeridu and a percussionist who plays objects of Western garbage – rusty hubcaps, Coca-Cola cans and the like. This is a work that eloquently asks, through both the theatrical presence of the medium and the contrast of their sounds, what civilisation really is.

If the haunting didjeridu here summoned the elemental, so did Richard Barrett's *Earth* (1987-8), for trombone and percussion, though, as the composer says, there are more subtle implications in the title. Other pieces concentrated on more abstract concepts. Javier Alvarez's clearly structured *Ki Bone Gaku* (1984) for trombone and marimba grew effectively from stark beginnings to complex solos, while Philip Feeney's *Dorico Scuro* (1984) was a fresh-sounding gentle interaction of trombone and electronics. Sohrab Uduman's *Refrains* (1988) used the same combination in a stimulating but more brutal manner. Alone, Allen gave a poised and gently modulated performance of Morton Feldman's graphic score of 1964, *The King of Denmark*.

Capricorn's series commemorating 50 years of Italian music began in the same hall with a varied programme conducted by Lionel Friend that ranged from Dallapiccola's refined, brief and beautifully scored *Piccola Musica Notturna* for mixed octet (1954) to the British premiere of Aldo Clementi's *Cantabile* (1988), a thrice-repeated canonic score laden with Italianate darkness and despair, and the glistening clusters of Berio's *Ricorrenze*, the wind quintet composed for Boulez's sixtieth birthday. With its exquisite colours and harmonies (sometimes microtonal) and its spirituality, however, Giacinto Scelsi's *Kya* (1958), in which Anthony Lamb was the clarinet soloist, proved fascinating.

STEPHEN PETTITT

ROCK

Chickasaw Mudd Puppies
Mean Fiddler

POPULAR music has the look of a jumble sale about it these days. With such a rag-bag confusion of styles, anything seems possible. The Chickasaw Mudd Puppies could have been invented to prove this theory. A young white duo from Athens, Georgia, they are attempting to recreate a world of sharecroppers and rural blues, long displaced by more modern images of the American South like the high-tech communications sector of Atlanta.

Musicians of the calibre of R.E.M.'s Michael Stipe and blues song-writer Willie Dixon have taken them seriously enough to have collaborated on their album, *8 Track Stomp*. Would a cynical London audience display a similar generosity? There was a strong element of theatricality present on stage at the Mean Fiddler. Harmonica player and singer Brant Slay sat in a rocking chair to perform, taking the Mudd Puppies act dangerously close to performance art. Their intent is more visceral than that, however; the noise made by Slay's amplified foot-stomping and Ben Reynolds's throat electric guitar drove out thoughts of performance art and conjured visions of the wilder, weirder hill-billy singers who inspired The Cramps.

Rockabilly and blues were fed through a punk blender. "It's different," said one audience member, clearly at a loss to find more expansive sentiments. The duo sounded more convincing in a hot and crowded room than they do on compact disc. Perhaps this is an occupational hazard at these extremes of archaic revivalism, but the more Slay yodelled and screamed like a backwoods preacher, the more fervently the audience screamed back.

None of their songs appeared to last for longer than a few minutes – all of them attacked at maximum intensity and then abruptly dispatched. Terse titles such as *McIntosh* or *Prison* added to the take-no-prisoners mood, and even Slim Harpo's lazy blues song, *Te-Ni-Nee-Ni-Nu*, was treated as if the curtains were on fire. Where the Mudd Puppies can take their brand of Americana is not easy to imagine; connoisseurs of the bizarre should see their act before it loses its way in normality.

DAVID TOOP

THEATRE

Getting Attention
West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds

"AND the little girl's very quiet, so that's a blessing." This daft comment encapsulates the elderly chin-wagging neighbour's view of childcare as she peers down from her balcony at the fatherless Sharon chewing mud in the garden below. Hear nothing, suspect nothing. Half-way through Martin Crimp's coldly passionate group-portrait of child abuse – the latest in this theatre's season of "Life-lines" plays – the scenes shift forward to a time after Sharon's physical state has hit the headlines: whether because she is dead, or belatedly taken into care, Crimp does not reveal. From here, the words of the prying neighbour (a neat study by Julia McCarthy of a woman who has seen but failed to interpret) are peppered with such excuses as "Knowing what we know now . . .". Crimp suggests that most neighbours know that something is wrong and fail to act on their hunches to prevent it growing worse.

The four-year-old Sharon never appears on stage but sometimes the rectangle of glass above her bedroom door lights up. At the start of the play, the moments she chooses to switch on her bedside lamp neatly coincide with the onset of foreplay between her mother, Carol, and Nick, the outwardly tough new man in her life. Jude Kelly's production shows him almost welcoming these interruptions; she always places him so that he can see the door and be furnished with further evidence of the child's demands. They are rivals for Carol's attention, but it is the man who will have the power to force the child into a scalding bath.

Crimp's dialogue contains trademark sequences of "unpartnered" conversation: two people talking as if the other is listening, though the responses never mesh. It is an image of mutual alienation but, as always, gives an awkwardly contrived feel to a scene. This is oddly at variance with the playing of Nigel Cooke and Adrienne Swan who give performances that feel rooted in reality.

Crimp's plays also leave me suspecting that somewhere a scene is missing. In this case we are given enough to guess at Nick's lack of self-assurance and Carol's emotional hunger: she carefully licks the drip off the rim of her bottle of fizz, whereas all she can say to Nick after seeing her child's scars is, "Someone will see, you prat." Incidents like these float towards us, but the scene in which they could slot into further understanding never comes. We end up knowing something must have gone wrong but, unlike the neighbours, we are in no position to establish what.

JEREMY KINGSTON

NEW RELEASES

BERLIN JERUSALEM: Amos Gitai's stylised exploration of the Zionist dream; clever on paper, less rewarding on the screen. ICA Cinema (071-930 3647).

FEAR (18): Demure Ally Sheedy as the lady in peril – a psychic with a gift for seeing brutal murders. Fair psychological chiller from writer-director Rockne O'Bannon. Cannons: Haymarket (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ THE GODFATHER PART III (15): Brooding finale to Francis Ford Coppola's Mafia saga, handsomely staged but lacking resonance. Al Pacino, Andy Garcia, Talia Shire. Cannons: Baker Street (071-935 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2636). Empire (071-437 9999) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

CURRENT

AVALON (U): Engaging personal saga about immigrant experience and post-war breakup of family life, by Rain Man director Barry Levinson. Fine performances by Armin Mueller-Stahl, Joan Plowright. Curzon Phoenix (071-240 9661) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366).

◆ BUDDY'S SONG (12): Roger Daltrey as an ageing pop musician whose tedious marital problems are resolved through the musical talents of his son. Director, Claude Whatham. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

C'EST LA VIE (12): Evocative autobiographical recollection by French director Diane Kurys: a childhood seaside holiday soured by marital breakup. With Natalie Baye. Barbican (071-638 8891) Premiere (071-439 4470).

CYRANO DE BERGERAC (U): Oscar-nominee Gérard Depardieu masterful as the lovelorn, long-nosed Cyrano; director Jean-Paul Rappeneau transforms Rostand's play into magnificent, swashbuckling cinema. Chelsea Cinema (071-351 3742) Lumière (071-836 0691) Renoir (071-837 8402).

◆ DANCES WITH WOLVES (12): Kevin Costner as the Civil War lieutenant sucked into the Sioux's way of life. Over-reverent, though Costner mounts his directorial debut with aplomb. Nominated for 12 Oscars. Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 8861) Odeon Marble Arch (071-723 2011) Screen on the Green (071-226 3520) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324) Warner (071-439 0791).

DECEMBER BRIDE (PG): Irish tale of a strong-willed servant girl, bogged down by dour atmosphere, but enlivened by Saskia Reeves. Director, Thaddeus O'Sullivan. Cannon Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Metro (071-437 0757).

GREEN CARD (12): Marriage of convenience becomes unbearable when slobbish Gérard Depardieu moves in with uptight Andie MacDowell. Likeable New York romantic-comedy; director, Peter Weir. Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) West End (071-930 5222/7515) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ THE GRIFTERS (18): Stephen Frears' disjointed version of Jim Thompson's con-artist thriller. John Cusack, Anjelica Huston, Annette Bening, stranded in a glossy limbo. Camden Plaza (071-485 2443) Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Haymarket (071-839 1527) Odeon Swiss Cottage (071-722 5505) Warner (071-439 0791).

◆ KINDERGARTEN COP (12): Uptight cop (Arnold Schwarzenegger) becomes kindergarten teacher. Bland, cute comedy, awkwardly mixed with violent shoot-outs. Plaza (071-497 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

METROPOLITAN (15): Whit Stillman's wickedly ironic comedy of manners set among New York's debutantes and prigglies. Witty dialogue, elegant direction. Cannon Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148).

◆ MILLER'S CROSSING (18): Prohibition gang warfare from the brothers Coen: brooding, labyrinthine, over-laden with words and smart artifice. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannons: Haymarket (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Gate (071-727 4043).

MEET THE APPLEGATES (15): Insects in human form succumb to American vices. Lunatic satirical comedy from *Heathers* director Michael Lehmann. Ed Begley Jr, Stockard Channing. Cannon Panton Street (071-930 0631).

MR AND MRS BRIDGE (PG): Eloquent portrait of an upper middle-class American marriage, from Evan S. Connell's novels. Joanne Woodward, Paul Newman, director, James Ivory. Curzon Mayfair (071-465 8865).

THE NASTY GIRL (PG): Provocative, funny assault on Germany's Nazi past, with Lena Stolze as the girl uncovering her home town's shady history. Minerva (071-235 4225) Premiere (071-439 4470) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772).

◆ PACIFIC HEIGHTS (15): Evil tenant Michael Keaton makes life hell for landlords Matthew Modine and Melanie Griffith. Strenuous, implausible thriller. Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeons: Haymarket (071-839 7697) Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5505) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE (15): Caustic Tinseltown comedy, with a few tears, from Carrie Fisher's novel. Meryl Streep as the drug-ebused actress; Shirley MacLaine as her mother. Director, Mike Nichols. Cannons: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Mezzanine (071-930 6111) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ THE RUSSIA HOUSE (12): Serpentine spy games with Sean Connery and Michelle Pfeiffer. Muted thriller from John Le Carré's novel; director, Fred Schepisi. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannons: Baker Street (071-935 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 8861) Plaza (071-497 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

THE SHELTERING SKY (18): A chilling novel (by Paul Bowles) filmed with a warming visual sweep by Bernardo Bertolucci. With John Malkovich and Debra Winger. Plaza (071-497 9999).

TILAI (PG): Formidably beatable African tale of love versus village traditions from Idrissa Ouedraogo, director of *Yaaba*. Metro (071-437 0757) Renoir (071-837 8402).

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

■ House full, returns only
☑ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☐ ABSURD PERSON SINGULAR: Ayckbourn's sublimely dark farce, set on three Christmas Eves. Last week. Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (071-867 1119). Underground: Charing Cross. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4.30pm.

☑ ALL IN THE WRONG: Sam Walters' bright new theatre opens with an amiable 18th-century romp of sexual misunderstandings. Orange Tree, 45 Kew Road, Richmond. (081-940 3633). Underground/BR: Richmond. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 45mins. Closes March 30.

☐ CHILDREN OF EDEN: Genial musical jinks round Genesis, supplied by John Caird and Stephen Schwartz. Prince Edward, Old Compton Street, W1 (071-734 8951): Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 50mins.

☑ CROMWELL: Imaginative staging of Brendan Kennelly's poem sequence on Anglo-Irish violence: 60 minutes of dense, vivid imagery. Last week. Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (081-743 3388). Underground: Shepherds Bush. Mon-Sat, 8pm. Running time: 1hr 15mins.

■ FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE: Marvellous jazzy revue packed with Louis Jordan numbers. An evening of joy. Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-437 3686). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 5pm and 8.45pm. Running time: 1hr 45mins.

☐ 42ND STREET: Irresistible tap-dancing novice-to-star musical back in town to give everyone a tonic. Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (071-580 9562). Underground: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins. Closes April 20.

☐ HIDDEN LAUGHTER: Emotional hangups, marital breakup and Peter Barkworth in Simon Gray's patchy drama. Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987). Underground: Charing Cross. Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins. Closes March 23.

☐ THE HOMECOMING: Warren Mitchell and others seducing and seduced by Charlie Lunghi in Peter Hall's Pinter revival. Comedy, Panton Street, W1 (071-867 1045). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins.

☐ THE KING AND I: Susan Hampshire and Koshiro Matsumoto IX in old-fashioned show, packed with a wealth of hit songs. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916). Underground: Angel. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 50mins. Closes March 30.

☐ MAP OF THE HEART: Have be clichés. Tedious love-triangle blues by *Shadowlands* author William Nicholson. Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-437 3667). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins.

☐ PURGATORY IN INGOLSTADT: Violence and cruelty among school-children in pre-Hitler Germany: superb production of Marieluise Fleisser's prescient 1924 play. Gate, Prince Albert Pub, 11 Pembridge Road, W11 (071-229 0706). Underground: Notting Hill Gate. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. In repertory with *Pioneers in Ingolstadt*. Closes March 30.

☑ RACING DEMON: David Hare's award-winning state-of-the-church drama. National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Underground/BR: Waterloo. Tonight, 7.15pm. Running time: 2hrs 50mins.

☐ THE REHEARSAL: Ian McDiarmid's stylish production (costumes by Jasper Conran) of Anouilh's seduction play. Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-379 6107). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8pm, mats Tues, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins.

☐ THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW: Raucous and wild, bold and bizarre; sometimes deafening rock musical. Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 7pm and 9.15pm. Running time: 1hr 30mins.

☑ SILLY COW: Ben Elton's awkward collection of one-liners, centred around Dawn French as a glaswegian tabloid journo. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 5.30pm and 8.45pm. Running time: 2hrs 10mins.

☑ TIMON OF ATHENS: David Suchet suave and sulphurous in a modern-dress production by Trevor Nunn that enlivens Shakespeare's blank spots. Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 (071-928 6363). Underground: Waterloo. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Thurs, 1.30pm. Running time: 3hrs 15mins. Closes April 20.

☑ TWELFTH NIGHT: Peter Hall's production stresses comedy and motive: with Eric Porter, Dinsdale Landen, David Ryall. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-839 4401). Underground: Embankment. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm. Running time: 2hrs 40mins.

☑ THE VISIT: Théâtre de Complicité triumph in Dürrenmatt's black comedy of revenge and corruption. National (Lyttelton) (as left). Tonight-Wed, 7.30pm, mat tomorrow, 2.15pm. Running time: 2hrs 55mins.

☐ WHAT THE BUTLER SAW: Incest, assault and bisexual juntaing preserved in the aspic of Joe Orton's wit. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 6pm and 8.40pm. Running time: 2hrs.

☐ THE WINTER WIFE: Eloquent, absorbing glimpse of Katherine Mansfield, convalescing on the Riviera in 1922, tormenting the woman who loves her. Lyric Hammersmith, King Street, W6 (081-741 2311). Underground: Hammersmith. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins. Closes Saturday.

LONG RUNNERS: ☑ Aspects of Love: Prince of Wales (071-839 5972) . . . ☐ Blood Brothers: Albery (071-867 1115) . . . ☐ Buddy: Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) . . . ☑ Cats: New London (071-405 0072) . . . ☑ Me and My Girl: Adelphi (071-836 7611) . . . ■ Les Miserables: Palace (071-434 0909) . . . ■ Miss Saigon: Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-836 8108) . . . ☐ The Mousetrap: St Martin's (071-836 1443) . . . ■ The Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's (071-839 2244) . . . ☐ Return to the Forbidden Planet: Cambridge (071-379 5299) . . . ☐ Run For Your Wife: Duchess (071-836 8243) . . . ☐ Shirley Valentine: Duke of York's (071-836 5122) . . . ☐ A Slice of Saturday Night: Arts (071-836 2132) . . . ☐ Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) . . . ☐ The Woman In Black: Fortune (071-836 2238).

Ticket information on member theatres supplied by Society of West End Theatre

TODAY'S EVENTS

GREAT ORCHESTRAS OF THE WORLD: The Barbican's series returns with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra in intriguing alliance with the pioneer of musical authenticity, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, performing an all-Mozart programme comprising the "Haffner", "Linz" and "Prague" symphonies. The Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Amsterdam, feature later in the series. Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 8891), 7.45pm.

MAX ERNST: Ernst, whose centenary is being celebrated with a grand retrospective at the Tate, has a peculiar force and amazing skill as a painter. Involved with the Surrealist movement in France in the Twenties and Thirties, and before that with the original Dada movement in Cologne, he derives many of his basic processes from a Surrealist fascination with the arbitrary and the accidental. Anybody who is not familiar with one of the greatest of modern masters should lose no time in becoming acquainted. Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (071-821 7128). 10am-6pm, until April 21.

JIMMY SOMERVILLE: Riding high on the back of *The Singles Collection*, the master of the disco wail sallies forth with a five greatest-hits package. Barrowlands, Gallowa Gate, Glasgow (041-226 4679), 7.30pm.

DON CHERRY: Ornette Coleman's partner and Neneh's stepfather, he returns with his pocket trumpet and his world music ensemble, Multi Kulti. Jazz Café, 15a Parkway, London NW1 (071-284 4358), 9pm.

MARRIAGE OF FIGARO: David Freeman's last instalment of the Mozart/Da Ponte operas for Opera Factory firmly anchors itself to action and words, with less emphasis on vocal allure. Eagerly acted by Opera Factory regulars. Penultimate performance. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), 7pm.

SWAN LAKE: Peter Darrell's revival for Scottish Ballet of the Tchaikovsky classic. Soviet Galina Mezentseva, who joined the company from the Kirov last year, dances the dual role of Odile/Odette (see review, above left). Theatre Royal, Hope Street, Glasgow (041-332 9000), 7.15pm.

ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET: The small-scale company tour stops off in Lowestoft for two days, presenting Ben Stevenson's *Three Preludes*, Ronald Hynd's *The Sanguine Fan* and the company's latest production, *Our Waltzes* – a sequence of dances for five couples by Venezuelan Vicente Nebrada, set to piano music. Marina Theatre, The Marina, Lowestoft (0502 573318), 7.30pm.

DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE: August Everding's production of Mozart's opera is revived by Helmut Lehberger. The distinguished German baritone Olaf Bär makes an impressive Papageno. Good contributions from Joan Rodgers (Pamina), Anthony Michaels-Moore (Speaker) and Linda Kitchen (Papagena). Stephen Barlow conducts. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066/1911), 7pm.

MELVYN TAN: The fortepiano virtuoso joins the period instruments of the Academy of Ancient Music, under Christopher Hogwood, for an all-Haydn programme comprising Symphony No 40 in F, Piano Concerto in D, Piano Sonata in B minor and Symphony No 72 in D. Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, London W1 (071-935 2141), 7.30pm.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 20

HUZ AND BUZ

(c) Two of the eight children of Nahor, Abraham's brother; *Genesis* 22: "Behold, Milcah, she hath also born children unto thy brother Nahor; Huz his firstborn, and Buz his brother."

DRUSILLA

(a) Daughter of Herod Agrippa I and wife of the procurator of Judaea, Antonius Felix; *Acts* 24: "Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was a Jewess, and sending for Paul he let him talk to him about faith in Christ Jesus."

ASHER

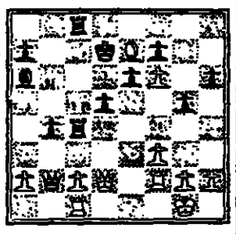
(a) One of the 12 sons of Jacob and progenitor of one of the 12 tribes of Israel. He and his brother Gad were the sons of Zilpah, the servant of Leah. His tribal territory was along the coast north of Carmel, debatable land with the Phoenicians.

JOEL

(b) A prophet exceptionally hard to date, perhaps one of Isaiah's principal successors in the late 7th century BC, possibly post-Exilic, mid 4th century BC. If the latter, he exceptionally transcended the blustering Jewish nationalism of that period.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



This position is from the game Nielsen – Geller, Stockholm 1954. Can you see how Black breaks through? Solution tomorrow.

Solution to competition position (March 2): 1 Re1. The winners are: Mr B. Kay, Manchester; H.O. Dowey, Thetford; Mr J.S. Gedling, Selsdon.

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

ROY MILES GALLERY 29, Bruton St W1 071-495 4747 BRITISH MONTH 300 Paintings on View Mon-Fri 10-6, Sats 10-1.

THE TRYON GALLERY 23/24 Cork Street, London W1. TEL: 071-734 6961/2256. Exhibition PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS by RAOUL MILLAIS 13th March-26th March 1991. Mon-Fri 9.30am-6pm.

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 071 836 3161 cc 071 240 5258 cc, 1st Call 071 240 7200 (24hr / 7 day) 071 379 4444 ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA No Perf Tom'l or Tomorr. Wed 7.30 LAM. Thur & Sat 7.30 TURN OF THE SCREW Fri 7.00 RUSALKA

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH 081 741 2311 (24hrs/no bkg fee) 071 836 3464 20.30 Mar only! WELSH NATIONAL OPERA Mamod & Gretel by Humperdinck

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 071 240 1066 / 1911. Standby info 836 6903. S CC 65 stupid seats avail on the day. THE ROYAL OPERA Tom't 7.00 Die Zauberflöte Tomorr 7.30 Samson et Dalila.

THEATRES

ADELPHI 071 836 7611 CC 071 793 1000/071 379 4444 First Call 24hr cc 071 497 9977 (no bkg fee) Grps 071 930 6123 NOW BOOKING TO SEPT ME AND MY GIRL THE LAMBETH WALK MUSICAL Nightly at 7.30 Mats Wed at 2.30 & Sat 4.30 & 8.00 "THE HAPPIEST SHOW IN TOWN!" Sunday Express

ALBERY SO & cc (no fee) 867 1115 cc (no fee)867 1111/379 4444 bkg fee 793 1000/497 9977 SWEET Award 1983 WILLY RUSSELL'S BLOOD BROTHERS with STEPHANIE LAWRENCE "ASTONISHING...A Blockbuster in British Musicals" S Exp ...Brings the audience to its feet, and raising its approval" D Mail Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4

APOLLO Box Office/CC/Gps 071 437 2663 CC 793 1000 (no bkg fee)/379 4444/836 2428(bkg fee) SIMON CADELL JANE NOW FOLLARD JOHN GUAVLE in the new comedy DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER Previews from 20 March Mon-Fri 8pm. Wed mat 3pm. Sat 5pm & 8.30 Opens 26 March at 7pm

CAMBRIDGE 071-379 5299 CC 071 379 4444 (24hr cc bkg fee) 071 497 9977/(24hr)/071 793 1000 (B Fees) Grps 071 240 7941 "Go in and Rock..." The Times BEST MUSICAL Olivier Awards 1990 RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET "The liveliest, boldest musical" C Limits "Boundless and bleeding" D Mir Mon-Thu 8 Fri & Sat 7.5 & 8.30 All seats £8.50 Fri 5pm only "Deliriously addictive" D Tel "Awesome" What's On

CHANNEL 4 071-836 4311 cc 071-379 4444/071-793 1000 (no bkg fee) 071-240 7200 (bkg fee) Grps 071-930 6123 Theatre of Comedy Company HENRY MOSS LESLIE LAWTON WILLIAM LUCAS in RAY COONEY'S "HILARIOUS" (5 Times) RUN FOR YOUR WIFE! LONDONS LONGEST RUNNING COMEDY 8.00 nightly Sats 5.30 & 8.30 Thu Mat 2.30

DUKE OF YORKS BO & cc 836 5122 cc 836 0837 cc 836 3464/379 4444/793 1000 COMEDY OF THE YEAR Olivier Awards 1988 ELIZABETH ESTENSEN in WILLY RUSSELL'S "GEM" SHIRLEY VALENTINE Eves 8 Mats Thu 3, Sat 5 "The audience roars approval. Shirley's spell is unbreakable" Mail "Sensational play for years" Daily Mirror

FORTUNE Box Office & cc 071 836 2238 24hr cc bkg fee 071 497 9977 (24hr) 071 793 1000 Groups 930 6123 THE WOMAN IN BLACK Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt "A BRILLIANTLY EXECTUVE SPINE CHILLER" Guardian "MASTERLY" Exp CHILLING" Sun Times "Terrifying" Punch "HOORAY FOR HORROR" D Mail NOW BOOKING TO SEPT '91

FORTUNE 071 836 2238 MARIE LLOYD 4pm EVERY SUNDAY 4pm

GARRICK BO & CC 071 379 6107 cc 379 4444 (no bkg fee) 240 7200/793 1000 (bkg fee) Grps 930 6123 NICOLA PAGETT JONATHAN HYDE MILES ANDERSON in THE REHEARSAL by JEAN ANOUILH "SHOULD BE SEEN" FT Eves 7.45 Sat 4 & 8 Mat Tue 3

GLOBE 071 437 3667 cc 071 793 1000 071 379 4444 (no fee)/071 240 7200 (bkg fee) "THE MOST PROFOUNDLY MOVING PLAY IN THE WEST END...A MUST – SEE PLAY" Daily Express PATRICK MALAHIDE SINEAD CUSACK SUSAN WOOLDRIDGE MAP OF THE HEART by WILLIAM NICHOLSON Directed by PETER WOOD Eves 7.45 Mats Wed 3.00. Sat 4.00

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL B.O. 071 930 8800 cc 24hr Hotline 071 497 9977 (24hr fee) 071 379 4444 (bkg fee) 071 793 1000 (bkg fee) DAWN FRENCH in SILLY COW BY BEN ELTON MON - THUR EVES 8.00 pm. FRI and SAT EVES 8.45 pm MATS FRI and SAT 5.30 pm

HER MAJESTYS Enquiries 0836 430921 071-839 2244 24hr CC 379-4444 (bkg fee) 741-9999 (bkg fee) 497-9977 (bkg fee) Group Sales 930-6123 ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA DAVE WILLETTS JILL WASHINGTON MICHAEL CORMICK Ivan Bartok plays Christine Directed by HAROLD PRINCE Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3 SOLD OUT UNTIL SEPT 28 1991 40-50 RETURNS SOLD EACH PERF: QUEUE DAILY

KINGS HEAD 071-226 1916. 8pm DECEPTIONS with Anna Carteret & Jamie Glover.

LONDON PALLADIUM B/O & CC 071 437 7373 CC 071 494 5020 cc 379 4444 081 741 9999 Grps 071 240 7941 5 OLIVIER NOMINATIONS including BEST MUSICAL REVIVAL Kern and Hammerstein's SHOW BOAT "Sheer magic" Mail "Home Entertainment Of The Week-End Stage" Sun Eves 7.30, Mats Wed Sat 2.30 The Open'n Week! RSC Production Directed by Lee Judge Limited Season 1.5 March-18 May

LONDON PALLADIUM BO 071 437 7373/437 2055 cc 24hr 379 4444 (no bkg fee) 497 9977 24hr (bkg fee) Prestel 2 Jane Opens 12 June JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT by Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber Starring JASON DONOVAN

LYRIC, Shaftesbury Ave 071 437 3686 cc 24hrs (no bkg fee) 379 4444 "SONG & DANCE DYNAMITE" Daily Mail FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE Nominated For A Olivier Awards "A JOYOUS WALLOPING HIT" Guardian "The joint never stops jumpin" Time Out 04mFri 8.00 Sat at 6.00 & 8.45 APPLY DAILY FOR RETURNS AND CANCELLATIONS

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH 081 741 2311 (cc no bkg fee 071 836 3464) THE WINTER WIFE by Claire Tomalin. "A COMPELLING STUDY OF FEVERISH GENIUS. AN ACCOMPLISHED, ENGAGING AND ELEGANT PLAY" Times. 7.45 pm. FINAL WEEK! STUDIO 081 741 8701 THE ROUND TABLE by Christoph Hein Sun

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 071 928 2252: Grps 071 620 0741 24 hr cc bkg fee 071 497 9977 Tom't 7.15 RACING DEMON Hare Tomorr 7.15 THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Grahame adapted by Bennett (SOLD OUT RETURNS ONLY) LYTTELTON Tom't 7.30 Tomorr 2.15 & 7.30 THE WINTER'S TALE Shakespeare adapted by Mahood COTTESLOE Tom't Tomorr 7.30 (PREVIEWS) INVISIBLE FRIENDS Ayckbourn

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 071 405 0072 CC 404 4079 Grps 405 1057 (All shows all seasons avail from Seat) All tkts 379 4444 Tkts from W H Smith Travel Branches (Grp bkg) 930 6123 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING MUSICAL CATS Eves 7.45 Tue & Sat 3.00 & 7.45 LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION. PLEASE BE PROMPT! Bars open at 6.45 NOW BOOKING THRU OCT SEATS NOW AVAIL

OLD VIC 071 928 7616 cc 071 793 0600 (agency no fee) cc (all with bkg fee) 071 793 1000/379 4444/497 9977 For the First Time Ever in London OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II's CELEBRATED MUSICAL CARMEN JONES Based on the opera "CARMEN" by BIZET directed by Simon Callow musical director and principal conductor Henry Lewis From 8 April. Now Booking.

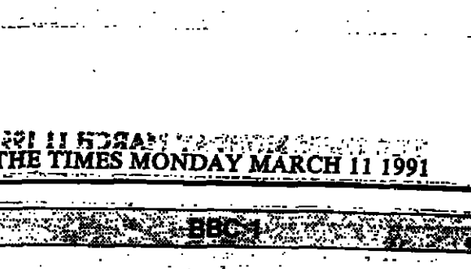
PALACE THEATRE 071-434 0909 cc24hrs (no bkg fee) 071-379 4444/497 9977/793 1000 Group Sales 071-930 6123 Grps 071-494 1671 THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL LES MISERABLES THE MUSICAL SENSATION Eves 7.30, Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Latecomers not admitted until the interval NOW BOOKING THRU SEPT 91 APPLY TO BOX OFFICE DAILY FOR RETURNS/CANCELLATIONS

PICCADILLY 071 867 1118 cc no bkg fee, 867 1111/071 793 1000 071 379 4444 (24hrs/bkg fee) 071 497 9977 (24hrs) Group Sales 930 6123 BEST MUSICAL REVIVAL Olivier Awards 1991 RICHARD O'BRIEN'S "MAD BAD FUN MUSICAL"D Mir THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW Directed by Robin Lefevre "RAMPANT WITH ACTIVITY" Sunday Express Mon-Thur 8 Fri & Sat 7 & 9.15 90 minute show

PRINCE OF WALES BO 071 839 5972 CC 24hr 7 Day 836 3464

BBC 1

3.00 Ceefax
6.30 Breakfast News.
9.15 Daytime UK. Linked contributions from BBC centres across the country. Starting with Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk hosts a topical discussion 9.55 Regional News and weather
10.00 News and weather 10.05 Playdays (r) 10.25 Stoppit and Tidyup. Cartoon narrated by Terry Wogan (r) 10.35 She's the Sheriff. Comedy series about a female sheriff (r)
11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 People Today. Magazine programme about the lives of people across Britain today. Featuring *Mother of Mine*, in which celebrities recall their childhood in the company of their mother, and *Kitchen Call*
12.00 News and weather 12.05 Wildlife Gems. Fergus Keeling presents more classic moments from the Natural History Unit archives 12.20 Scene Today. Judi Spiers and Tim Grundy present entertainment live from Pebble Mill 12.55 Regional News and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) 1.50 Look Stranger. A journey to the 15th-century Welsh home of a former Black Watch colonel (r)
2.15 Starsky and Hutch. The crime-busting buddies find a link between the murder of an undercover cop and the marriage of a friend (r)
3.00 Head of the Class. Comedy about a teacher (Howard Hesseman) in charge of a class of genius students
3.25 Bazaar. Narys Hughes presents more money-saving ideas for people on a low income. Featuring advice on how to say no nicely, getting more out of the kitchen and making children's clothes without spending any money
3.50 Radio Roo. Episode three of the five-part children's comedy serial 4.05 Jimbo and the Jet Set. Cartoon (r) 4.10 Jackanory. Kevin Whateley, *Monse's* Sgt Lewis, with the first of a three-part story by Anne Fine, *Bill's New Frock* 4.25 The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse (r) 4.35 Thundercats
5.00 Newsround presented by Roger Finn and Juliet Morris 5.05 Blue Peter. Children's magazine series. (Ceefax)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: Sportswide 5.40 Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. Weather
6.30 Regional News Magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Wogan.
7.30 Family Matters: Marriage Contracts. Does a pre-nuptial agreement take the romance and trust out of marriage?

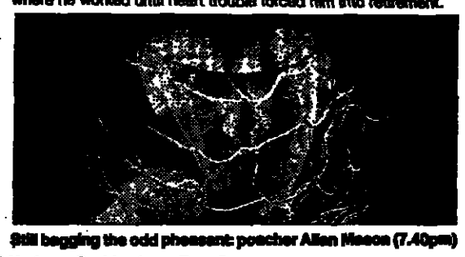


One of eight spotted cats in Latin America: the margay (8.00pm)

8.00 Wildlife on One: Beauty and the Beast.
● CHOICE: There are eight spotted cats in Latin America, Sir David Attenborough tells us, and seven of them are little known. The famous one, and the biggest, is the jaguar. The others include the margay, the ocelot, the oncilla and the kodkod. It sounds like a question from *Mastermind*. Thanks to television technology they need be little known no longer. The film follows the usual pattern of the series in showing us how the spotted cats multiply and kill their prey. It departs from that pattern in using a concealed video camera to follow the illegal trade in skins from the South American jungle to the back streets of Bogota and the fashion shops of Europe. Before the trade was controlled, half a million skins a year were being exported to make fur coats for rich and fashionable women and the spotted cats were in danger of extinction. (Ceefax)
8.30 Taking the Floor: Dancing in the Dark. Two-dimensional sitcom about ballroom dancing. Brian (Matthew Cottle) finds a new dancing partner, Karen (Barbara Durkin), but do they have anything in common away from the dance floor? (Ceefax)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather
9.30 Panorama. Jane Corbin reports from Kuwait on the ruination left by the Iraqi troops
10.10 Match of the Day: The Road to Wembley. Highlights of tonight's FA Cup sixth round tie between West Ham and Everton. Northern Ireland: Situations Vacant 10.40 When I Get to Heaven
11.00 When I Get to Heaven. The actress Jane Lapotaire talks to Bishop Richard Holloway about how acting has influenced her feelings about life and death. Northern Ireland: 11.10 Advice Shop
11.30 Advice Shop. How disabled people can combat discrimination and promote a better understanding of their needs (r). Northern Ireland: 11.40-12.30am Match of the Day
2.00 Weather

BBC 2

6.45 Open University: Asian Families, Western Culture. Ends at 7.10
8.00 News 8.15 Westminster
8.30 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes
2.00 News and weather followed by Storytime (r) 2.15 Regional Westminster Programmes (r). Northern Ireland: Growing Freedom 2.50 Behind the Screen. David Vickery takes a peep at the Comic Relief team's preparations for red nose day on Friday
3.00 News and weather followed by Songs of Praise (r). (Ceefax)
3.35 Holiday Outings. Anne Gregg reports on a 19-day holiday package that takes in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mauritius and includes a visit to the Victoria Falls (r) 3.50 News, regional news and weather
4.00 Catchword. Word quiz hosted by Paul Coia
4.30 Fighting Talk. Anne Kelleher talks to Professor Colin Blakemore, one of the few scientists prepared to speak openly on the contentious issue of vivisection, despite the violent tactics used by some animal liberation groups
5.00 News followed by Northern Arts. A profile of the glass artist Charlie Meaker who has set up his own studio in Sunderland (r)
5.10 Film: Guest Wife (1945, b/w). Lively but predictable romantic comedy with Claudette Colbert in commanding form as a newly-wed who is "borrowed" by her husband's best friend (Don Ameche), a famous newspaper correspondent who needs a wife to impress his boss. The ensuing mix-ups are adroitly handled by the director Sam Wood
6.35 DEF II begins with The Fresh Prince of Bel Air. American comedy series providing a vehicle for rap star Fresh Prince 7.00 Snub. New and indie music show featuring live performances from Ocean Colour Scene, Moose and Gallum Drunk 7.30 Job Bank. How to become a freelance news and features photographer (r)
7.40 Countrymen: The Old Man of Coniston.
● CHOICE: Coniston Old Man is a mountain. The old man of Coniston, the second in an enjoyable series of Lake District profiles, is Allan Mason. Like his dad before him he is a poacher, always has been and can't see anything wrong with it. He poached even when he was supposed to be upholding the law during 21 years as a special constable. Always been a bit of wild one, he reckons. Mason is now in his seventies and "pleased to be going downhill". But he still begs the odd pheasant as well as indulging more respectable pleasures, such as fishing. Coniston is not that what it was, what with all the cars and the old gunpowder works turned into a luxury time share development. But the old man has no time for sentimentality. He recalls growing up in a house among a family of ten with no bathroom and hard graft at the slate quarry, where he worked until heart trouble forced him into retirement.



Still begging the odd pheasant: poacher Allan Mason (7.40pm)

8.10 Horizon: Cashing in on Paradise.
● CHOICE: A film from Belize, the only former British colony in central America, investigates ecotourism. This is the art of bringing in visitors and much-needed revenue while preserving the local culture and environment. With traditional exports failing, Belize certainly needs the money. Since *Horizon* is a science series, we are shown computer technology which allows areas to be mapped with the minimum of field work and development strategies to be tested. Geographers from Edinburgh university are helping to make sure that environmental protection is built into the planning process. Belize has several natural assets with tourist appeal, not least the world's second longest barrier reef. A section has been opened to visitors, with fishing and diving allowed on a controlled basis. But while fish populations are increasing the coral is being damaged by snorkellers, making it more susceptible to killer algae. (Ceefax)
9.00 Film: Second Thoughts (1982). Convoluted drama, which might have been more successful as a comedy, following the trials of a successful female lawyer (Lucie Arnaz). She gets into trouble when she finds herself representing her lover (Craig Wasson), who is in dispute with a bank run by her former husband (Ken Howard). Directed by Lawrence Turman
10.30 Newsnight with Peter Snow
11.15 The Late Show takes a sceptical look at culture in the Eighties. Among those taking part are Fay Weldon, Peter Hall and Martin Amis 11.55 Weather
12.00 The Open University: Poetry — Language and History. Ends at 12.30am

ITV

8.00 TV-am
9.25 Lucky Ladders. Game show hosted by Lennie Bennett 9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 The Time . . . The Place . . . John Stapleton chairs a discussion on a topical subject
10.40 This Morning. Magazine series on family matters presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan
12.05 Rosie and Jim find out how locks work (r) 12.25 Thames News and weather
12.30 News and weather
1.20 Home and Away. Australian soap about a couple and their foster children 1.50 A Country Practice. Drama serial set in a rural Australian community health clinic
2.20 Thames Help with Jackie Spracklay 2.50 Graham Kerr prepares traditional Thai soup — tom yum gai
3.15 ITN News headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 Families. Encounters in the north of England and Australia
3.55 Nellie the Elephant 4.05 T-Bag and the Rings of Olympus. The final episode of the children's serial 4.30 Count Duckula (r)
[illegible] and Away (r)
5.30 [illegible] Oracle) and weather
[illegible] Find a Family. The first of the *Find a Family* youngsters living in [illegible] seek a permanent home
6.00 Blockbusters. The fast-moving quiz for teenagers, hosted by Bob Holness
6.30 Thames News and weather
7.00 Wish You Were Here . . . ? A special edition of the popular travel show focusing on the Channel Tunnel, asking what it will mean to the traveller and how the ferry companies are preparing for the competition it will present. Judith Chalmers reports from the home front at Folkstone, whilst at the French end John Carter reports from Sangatte near Calais. Plus a feature on a special hotel package that links Richmond in Surrey with St Omer in France, and a visit by Judith to the ancient town of Ghent in Belgium. (Oracle)
7.30 Coronation Street. Another portion of drama from the famous street in the north of England. (Oracle)
8.00 The Upper Hand. Feeble comedy starring Joe McGann as a former footballer turned housekeeper for a successful businesswoman (Diana Weston). (Oracle)
8.30 World in Action. A guide to losing your job by revealing the five tell-tale signs of impending redundancy and unemployment



Counselling for a shoplifting fixation: Jean Kent (9.00pm)

9.00 Shrinks. The trials of the six psychiatrists at the Maximillain Institute continue. The shrinks are on a desperate quest to rid the country of all abnormal behaviour before they themselves succumb to the lunacy that affects their social lives. The drama plods on relentlessly with Magda (Yvonne Bryceland) counselling an ageing film star (Jean Kent) who has acquired a dangerous shoplifting fixation (Oracle)
10.00 News at Ten. (Oracle) Weather 10.30 Thames News and weather
10.40 Money For Nothing: How the Big Bang Bubble Burst. A *City Programme* special about the recent financial upheavals in the city (r)
11.40 Magnum. Tom Selleck stars as the laconic, Hawaii-based PI with an awful lot of money. A modern-day Jack the Ripper, who seems to know a lot about Magnum, taunts the PI with riddles before he commits his murders
12.40am Sportsworld Extra. Tony Francis introduces top-class sporting action including the week's soccer highlights and golf from Majorca
1.40 Film: The Execution (1985). Middling television movie about five suburban Jewish women, survivors of the Holocaust, who spot a former Nazi doctor now working as a successful Los Angeles restaurateur. Together they resolve to execute him for the crimes for which he has never been brought to task. Stars Loretta Swift and Jessica Walter. Directed by Paul Wendkos
3.30 Cover Story featuring Pia Zadora (r)
4.00 Mystery Theatre: Banshee. Film director John Hampton is a lady-killer, a devilish scoundrel and an incurable practical joker. When a close friend pays him a visit at his stately manor in Ireland, John plays a series of pranks on him that will test his friend's patience to the limit. Starring Peter O'Toole (r)
4.30 Bedrock. Featuring the band, Asia.
5.30 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Art of Landscape. Relaxing scenes backed by soothing music
6.20 Business Daily
6.30 The Channel Four Daily
9.25 Schools
12.00 News summary
12.05 Garden Club. Gardening for beginners as well as the green-fingered. Featuring a visit to Cornwall and tips on planting asparagus (r)
12.35 Business Daily. Financial and business news service presented by Susannah Simons
1.00 Sesame Street. Entertaining educational programme for the very young
2.00 Film: It's A Date (1940, b/w) Lightweight comedy-musical vehicle for crystal-voiced singing star Deanna Durbin. She plays a young actress who is given the stage role desired by her Broadway-star mother (Kay Francis), but turns it down to chase a millionaire (Walter Pidgeon) who in turn falls for Francis. Directed by William A. Seiter
4.00 Travelog. Zimbabwe for the independent traveller. Presented by Robert Elms (r)
4.30 Countdown. Richard Whiteley hosts another round of the words and numbers game show. Nigel Rees is in the "Dictionary Corner"
5.00 The Late, Late Show. Music and topical chat show from Dublin presented by Gay Byrne
6.00 The Cosby Show. Comedy series starring Bill Cosby as the head of a household that makes the Waltons look like the Simpsons. A snake causes havoc in the Huxtable family (r)
6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross. The guests are comedian Stephen Fry, Donal Tookin, a disabled actress who will be talking about Comic Relief, and songwriter Lenny Gravitz
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext)
7.50 Comment followed by Weather
8.00 Brookside. Drama with the residents of a Merseyside cul-de-sac (Teletext)
8.30 My Two Dads. Lightweight American sitcom about a teenage girl left to two fathers in her late mother's will



Following in the family tradition: a young Etonian (9.00pm)

9.00 Cutting Edge: Eton — Class of '91.
● CHOICE: In the last prime ministerial contest the old Etonian Douglas Hurd (briefly glimpsed in this film) was trounced by the "classless" John Major. Is the public school establishment dead at last? Eton's head, Dr Eric Anderson, admits to a tension between the school's history and tradition and an "avid" desire to be part of the modern world. Presented without commentary, and therefore left to speak more or less for itself, the film suggests that the tradition is in little danger. This is definitely not the local comprehensive. The dress, the accents and the persistence of quaint rituals, not to mention fees of around £10,000 a year, make sure of that. Eton may have appointed its first Japanese teacher and equipped itself with computers, but boys speak of being cut off from the real world. The film is very good at capturing the flavour of the place, less successful at questioning the assumptions that lie behind it
10.10 The Manageress. Cherie Lunghi stars in the enjoyable drama series about a woman who manages a second division football team (r)
11.30 Kurdistan — The Last Colony?. Timely second showing for this documentary that follows the struggle of a Kurdistan army of national liberation in its fight to establish a nation for 25 million displaced Kurds. Includes interviews with Kurdish leaders (r)
12.00 Mseleni Tales. The women of Kwa Zulu, a small area of South Africa, tell the story of their community, a rural tract in which most of the men are away working in the cities. Ends at 1.10am

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 2.20pm-3.15 ff Tomorrow Comes 6.25-7.00 Anglia News 10.40 Five Lives 11.10 Film: The Osterman Weekend 1.10 Sportsworld Extra 2.10 The Law and Harry McGraw 3.10 The ITV Chart Show 4.10 Extra Dimensions 5.00-5.30 Pick of the Week

BORDER

As London except: 1.50pm-3.15 Film: Silver Lode 5.00-5.30 Home and Away 6.00 Scoreround Monday 6.30-7.00 Take the High Road 10.40 R.F. Taylor Bowls Challenge 11.40 The Law and Harry McGraw 12.35 Film: The Hand of Night 2.20 America's Top Ten 2.50 Pick of the Week 3.20 Look in the Mirror 4.20 The Hit Man and Her 5.20-5.40 Jobfinder

CENTRAL

As London except: 2.20pm-3.15 ff Tomorrow Comes 6.25-7.00 Central News 10.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H 11.35 Santa Barbara 12.25 Film: The Bitch 2.10 Wrestling 3.00 Entertainment UK 4.00-5.30 Central Jobfinder

GRANADA

As London except: 1.50pm An Invitation to Remember: Phyllis Calvert 2.20 Jumble 2.50-3.15 Sons and Daughters 6.30-7.00 Granada Tonight 10.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H 11.35 The New Avengers 12.35 Film: The Hand of Night 2.20 America's Top Ten 2.50 Pick of the Week 3.20 The Look in the Mirror 4.20 The Hit Man and Her 5.20-5.30 Jobfinder

HTV WEST

As London except: 1.50pm The Sullivans 2.20-3.15 A Country Practice 5.00-5.30 Home and Away 6.00 HTV News 8.40-7.00 What's On? 10.40 Scene '91 11.10 The Making of Dances with Wolves 11.40 Wolf 12.35 Sportsworld Extra 1.35 Pick of the Week 2.05 How Wise It For You? 2.35 Film: Blondie for Victory 3.50 Fifty Years On 4.10 Nazareth — Live From London 5.10-5.30 Jobfinder

HTV WALES

As HTV West except: 6.30pm Wales at Six 6.40-7.00 Primetime 10.40-11.10 Dirty Dancing

TSW

As London except: 1.50pm The Young Doctors 2.20 Yan Can Cook 2.50-3.15 Cover Story 3.25-3.55 Home and Away 5.00-5.30 Families 6.00 TSW Today 6.30-7.00 Looking Back with Kenneth MacLeod 10.40 Beauty and the Beast 11.35 Beyond 2000 12.35 Film: The Hand of Night 2.20 America's Top Ten 2.50 Pick of the Week 3.20 The Look in the Mirror 4.20 The Hit Man and Her 5.20-5.30 Jobfinder

TVS

As London except: 2.20pm Yan Can Cook 2.45-3.15 Action 5.00-5.30 Home and Away 6.00 Coast to Coast 6.30-7.00 Facing South 10.40 Film: Blind Alley 12.35 Dirty Dancing 1.00 Sportsworld Extra 2.00 Wishbone Ash 3.00 Film: The Oblong Box 4.35 Short Story Theatre 4.50-5.30 Action

TYNE TEES

As London except: 2.45pm-3.15 Wild America 5.00-5.30 Home and Away 6.00 Northern Life 6.25-7.00 The World of Golf 10.40 North Tonight 11.20 The Sweeney 12.20 BB King 12.35 The Hand of Night 2.20 America's Top Ten 2.50 Pick of the Week 3.20 The Look in the Mirror 4.20 The Hit Man and Her 5.20-5.30 Jobfinder

ULSTER

As London except: 2.45pm-3.15 Simply Delicious 5.00-5.30 Home and Away 6.00 Six Tonight 6.30-7.00 Ask Annel 10.40 Married...with Children 11.10 Festival '90: Edward II and the Red Hot Pollies 11.40 New Avengers 12.35 Film: The Hand of the Night 2.20 America's Top Ten 2.50 Pick of the Week 3.20 Look in the Mirror 4.30 Hitman and Her 5.20-5.30 Jobfinder

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 2.00pm-3.00 5.00-5.30 Home and Away 6.00 Calender 6.30-7.00 It's a Vet's Life 10.40 Out of the Crowd 11.10 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.05 Film: Crossplot 1.50 Night Gallery 2.35 World Sport 3.35 Music Box 4.35-5.30 Jobs

S4C

Starts: 6.00am C4 Daily 9.25 Yogellon 12.00 Sbectel 12.10 Pobol Y Cwm 12.30 Newyddion 12.40 Slot Methrin 1.00 Countdown 1.30 Business Daily 2.00 Not on Sunday 2.30 Film: Never Take No For an Answer 4.00 A Different World 4.30 Slot 23 5.15 Brookside 5.45 Hano 6.00 Newyddion 6.15 Hano 6.40 Pobol Y Cwm 7.00 Dinas 8.30 Sgorio 8.30 Newyddion 9.00 Y Byd Ar Bedwar 9.35 Roseanna 10.05 LA Law 11.00 Kurdistan 12.00 C4 News 2.00 Diwedd

RTE 1

Starts: 12.35pm Austin City Limits 1.00 News 1.40 Delia Smith's Cookery Course 2.05 Love Boat 3.00 Live at Three 4.00 News followed by Emmerdale 4.30 Knots Landing 5.20 Short Look at the World 5.30 A Country Practice 6.00 The Angelus 6.01 Six-One 7.00 Know Your Sport 7.30 Square Deal 7.55 Out of Limits 8.05 The Great Escape 9.00 News 9.30 Twin Peaks 10.20 Questions and Answers 11.25 News 11.35 Close

NETWORK 2

Starts: 2.35pm Bosco 3.00 The Dean 6.30 Home and Away 7.00 Nuacht 7.08 Cursai 7.30 Coronation Street 8.00 News followed by Italian Soccer 9.00 The Golden Girls 9.30 News followed by Film: The Triangle Factory Fire Scandal 11.10 News 11.35 Close

SATELLITE TV

SKY ONE

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.
6.00am The DJ Kat Show 8.40 Mrs Pepperpot 8.50 Panel Pot Pourri 10.00 Hare's Lucy 10.30 The Young Doctors 11.00 The Bold and the Beautiful 11.30 The Young and the Restless 12.30pm Side of the Century 1.00 True Confessions 1.30 Another World 2.20 Santa Barbara 2.45 Wife of the Week 3.15 Bewitched 3.45 The DJ Kat Show 5.00 Punky Brewster 5.30 Mid-tale's Navy 6.00 Family Ties 6.30 Side of the Century 7.00 Love at First Sight 7.30 ALF 8.00 The Thorn Birds 11.00 Hill Street Blues 12.00 Pages from Skytext

SKY NEWS

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. News on the hour.
5.00am Newswatch 6.00 Sunrise 9.00 Sunrise 9.30 Health Circuit 10.30 Roving Reporter 11.00 International Business Report 12.30pm NBC Today 1.30 NBC Today 2.30 Parliament Live 3.15 Parliament Live 4.30 The Reporters 5.00 Live at Five 6.30 Newsline: Barbara Walters interviews Margaret Thatcher 8.30 Target 10.30 Newsline 11.30 NBC News 12.30am CBS News 1.30 NBC News 2.30 CBS News 3.30 NBC News 4.30 Beyond 2000

SKY MOVIES

● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am Showcase
10.00 Sacred Ground (1983): A wilderness adventurer (Tim McIntire) and his Apache wife (Serene Hardin) and child decide to settle on a sacred Indian burial ground
11.55 David and Bathsheba (1951): Biblical epic starring Gregory Peck as King David
2.00pm Face to Face: When a palaeontologist (Elizabeth Montgomery) travels to Africa to search for the remains of a three-million-year-old man, she discovers that her rival is already hard at work
4.00 Golden Pennies (1982): In the mid-1850s, two Australian families travel to the small town of Jericho in the gold rush
6.00 Juvi: A young girl slips into juvenile delinquency after the death of her father
7.00 Everyday Heroes (1990): Three teachers attempt to transcend the racism that is inherent in their school in Minnesota
8.00 Dirty Rotten Scoundrels (1988): Steve Martin and Michael Caine star as two rival con men working the French Riviera
9.45 UK Top Ten
10.05 Jack's Back (1988): This updated version of the Jack the Ripper legend is set in Los Angeles where a series of prostitutes are murdered 100 years to the day after the original Ripper killings
11.40 Brimstone and Treacle (1982): Sting insinuates himself into the life of a middle-class couple, whose daughter lies in a coma
1.05am Red Scorpion (1989): A Soviet agent (Dolph Lundgren) is sent to Africa to murder a rebel agent
2.45 Gordon's War (1973): A Vietnam veteran (Paul Winfield) returns home to find his wife is hooked on drugs
4.15 Satisfaction (1988): A rock band lands a gig at a summer seaside resort. Starring Liam Neeson, Debbie Harry. Ends at 5.45

EUROSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite.
5.00am As Sky One 7.30 Eurobics 8.00 British Formula 3 Motor Racing 1990 8.30 Equestrianism 9.30 Virginia Slims of Palm Springs 10.30 Eurobics 11.00 Formula 1 Grand Prix of the USA 1.00pm Lahti Ski Games 2.00 Bobsleigh World Cup 2.30 Men's European Cup Basketball 3.30 The Game of Billions 4.30 Freestyle Skiing 5.00 Big Wheels 5.30 Men's Cup Winners Cup Volleyball 6.30 Eurosport News 7.00 NHL Ice Hockey 8.00 Superbouts 9.00 Rodeo 10.00 US College Basketball 11.00 1990 World Figure Skating Championships 12.00 Eurosport News 12.30am British Touring Cars 1990 Season

SCREENSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite.
7.00am Powersports 8.00 NBA Basketball 10.00 Slop-Mud and Monsters 11.00 US Pro Ski Tour Slalom 11.45 Ten Pin Bowling 1.00pm Motorsport IMSA Camel GT 3.00 Ice Hockey NHL 1991 5.00 Stop-USWA Wrestling 6.00 Go 7.00 German Rally Champs 7.30 Spanish Football Highlights 8.00 USA Boxing 9.30 World of Champions 10.00 European PGA Volvo Tour 11.00 Ten Pin Bowling

MTV

● Via the Astra satellite.
Twenty-four hours of rock and pop

LIFESTYLE

● Via the Astra satellite.
10.00am Great American Gameshows 11.15 Coffee Break 11.20 Everyday Workout 11.50 Slim Cooking 12.15pm Sally Jessy Raphael 1.05 What's Cooking 1.10 Search for Tomorrow 1.35 The Edge of Night 2.00 Divorce Court 2.25 It's Your Lifestyle 2.35 Country Ways 3.05 Rafferty's Rules 3.55 Tea Break 4.05 Phyllis 4.35 Great American Gameshows 6.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Channel 8.00 Close 10.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Channel 12.00 Satellite Jukebox

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
1.10pm The Emigrants (1971): A peasant farmer and his wife emigrate to the United States from famine-stricken 19th century Sweden. Starring Max Von Sydow and Liv Ullman
3.45 The Movie Show
4.15 Five Golden Dragons (1967): A native American becomes caught up with an international crime ring in Hong Kong. Starring Bob Cummings
6.00 Kojak: Flowers for Matty: Telly Savalas's lollipop-sucking detective investigates a series of high society art thefts, weapon-smuggling and murder
7.35 The Movie Show
8.00 Big Top Pee-wee: Pee-Wee Herman now owns a farm and is visited by a travelling circus
10.00 The Aviator (1985): When pilot Christopher Reeve crashes in the middle of nowhere, his passenger (Rosanna Arquette) provides him with the motivation to survive
11.40 Lipstick (1976): A model (Margot Hemingway) is determined to take revenge on the man who raped her
1.15am Brothers in Arms (1989): While searching for a friend, a tracker and his brother fall foul of a barbaric tribe of mountain dwellers who still practise human sacrifice. Ends at 2.45

THE SPORTS CHANNEL

● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
1.30pm FA Cup Football 3.45 British Rugby League 5.30 Tuff Trax 6.30 NWA Wrestling 7.30 Live FA Cup Football 10.00 Superbouts 11.00 Racing Today 11.30 FA Cup Football

THE POWER STATION

● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
7.00am Twenty-one hours of rock and pop

RADIO 3

3.35-6.55am Open University (FM only)
6.55 Weather; News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert: Lassus (Alma Redemptoris Mater: Ensemble Pro Cantione Antiqua; Members of Early Music Wind Group, Hamburg): Fauré (Nocturne No 6 in D flat, Op 63: Jean-Philippe Collard, piano); Ravel (Daphnis et Chloé, Suite No 1: Orchestre de la Suisse Romande)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert (cont): Berlioz (Overture, Le Corsaire, Op 21: LSO); Debussy (Piano Trio in G: Trio Ravel); Lully (Divertissement lil: Capriccio Stravagante)
8.30 News
8.35 Composers of the Week: J.S. Bach (Sonata in B minor, BWV 1030: Cantata No 8, Liebster Gott, wenn werd ich sterben?; Four Duets, BWV 802-5, Clavierübung III; Contrapunctus 5, Art of Fugue)
9.35 Chansons françaises: Ravel (Chanson française: Gabriel Bacquier, baritone, Dalton Baldwin, piano); Koechlin (Chansons bretonnes sur d'anciennes chansons populaires, Op 115: Bernard Gregor-Smith, cello, Yolande Wrigley, piano); Debussy (La plus que lente; Danse: Orchestre National de l'ORTF, with John Lesch, cembalom); Huré (Cello Sonata in F sharp minor: Gregor-Smith, Wrigley); Ravel (Sur l'herbe, for baritone and piano): Maynard (Symphony No 3 in B flat minor, Op 11: Toulouse Capitole Orchestra); Ravel (Chansons madecasses: Jessye Norman, soprano, Michel Debost, flute, Rameud Fontanarosa, cello, Dalton Baldwin, piano), Rameau (Overture, Chaconne, Castor et Pollux: Orchestra of the 18th Century)
1.35 BBC Welsh SO under Grant Llewellyn, with Graham Barber, organ, performs Whitlock (Symphony in G minor for organ and orchestra — first broadcast); Walton, arr Palmer (Richard III)
1.00pm News
1.05 BBC Lunchtime Concert: Mark Lubotsky, violin, Nobuko Imai, viola, perform Mozart (Duo in G, K 423); Hindemith (Sonata for solo viola, Op 31, No 2); Mozart (Duo in B flat, K 424)
2.00 Third Opinion (r)
2.45 A Consummate Conductor: Herbert von Karajan. In the sixth of seven programmes, Richard Osborne examines von Karajan's work with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. Mozart (Symphony No 35 in D); Wagner (Die Walküre, Act 1 Scene 3); Schumann (Symphony No 2 in C); Respighi (Pines of Rome) (r)
4.45 De Saram Clarinet Trio performs A. Cooke (Trio in E flat); William Read (Trio, Op 27) 5.30 Mainly for Pleasure
7.00 News
7.05 Third Ear
● CHOICE: The Australian film director Fred Schepisi may have a point when he tells interviewer Nigel Andrews that it is a pity there is no kudos for film directors in the films they *nearly* made. Schepisi doesn't dwell on them tonight, but says enough about them to set the eyes a-gleam. Meanwhile, there is a wealth of good talk about the films he *has* made, including his latest, *The Russia House*, and it is good to hear him confirming what has been written about him: that, despite making films such as *Roxanne* in the Unnec States, he has not gone Hollywood like some emigrant Australians before him
7.30 Bournemouth SO under Andrew Litton, with Mikhail Rudy, piano, performs Strauss (Till Eulenspiegels lustige Streiche, Op 28); Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 3 in C minor); Stravinsky (The Firebird Suite)
9.10 BBC Singers on Tour under Simon Joly, in the first part of a concert given in Frankfurt last December. Schoenberg (Three Folksongs); Ligeti (Drei Phantasien nach Friedrich Hölderlin); Sawer (Songs of Love and War)
9.50 Poet of the Month. David Constantine
10.00 The Very Big Carla Bley Band performs Bley (The United States, Strange Arrangement, All Fall Down), Mingus (Goodbye Pork Pie Hat); Bley (Who Will Rescue Me?; La Utima). Recorded at the Hackney Empire last October
11.30 News
11.35-12.35am Composers of the Week: Debussy (r)
1.00-2.25 Night School (FM only) (except in Scotland)

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on FM
5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing; Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day, with Michael Shoesmith (s) 6.30 Today, with John Humphrys and Peter Hobday, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 6.55, 7.55 Weather
8.35 The Week on 4 8.43 The Professionals: The Farmer. A series of views of different occupations, with the help of the BBC sound archives (s) 8.57 Weather
9.00 News
9.05 Start the Week, with Melvyn Bragg and guest presenter, Barbara Amiel. The guests are architect Richard Rogers; John Benham, managing director of the CBI; comedian Rory Bremner; and Chief Emeka Anyaoku, secretary-general of the Commonwealth (s)
10.00 News; Money Box (r)
10.30 Morning Story: Iron Head, by Lawrence Durrell. Read by Frank Windsor (s)
10.45 Daily Service from the royal research ship Discovery in Dundee (s)
11.00 Down Your Way: Christina Hardyment visits Cartmel in South Lakeland, another of Arthur Ransome's favourite haunts (r)
11.40 Poetry Please! with Simon Rae
12.00 News, You and Yours
12.25pm Slightly Foxed: Gill Pyrah chairs the well-read literary quiz. The bookish guests are Sue Limb, Liz Lochhead and Robert Booth (s) 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News, Woman's Hour: Subjects for discussion include the torture of women; the lure of the stiletto; and women in politics
3.00 News, The Adventure of the Pimlico Poisoner: In Peter Mackie's play Conan Doyle's fictional detective, Sherlock Holmes (Wilson Chubb), is pitted against a real-life Victorian criminal. With Crawford Logan as Dr Watson (s) (r)
4.30 Kaleidoscope: Natalie Wheen talks to the conductor Mark Wigglesworth about his career; East meets West in the music of the versatile group Shiva Nova; and there are reviews of Shared Experience on tour with *Sweet Nothings*, a dramatisation of Shakespeare's *Sonnets*; and a retrospective of J.B. Yeats's view of everyday Irish life at Bristol's Arnolfini Gallery (s)
5.00 PM, with Valerie Singleton and Frank Partridge 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 News; Financial Report
6.30 The News Quiz: Barry Took quizzes Richard Ingrams, Alan Coren and their guests on the week's news (s) (r)
7.00 News
7.05 The Archers
7.20 The Food Programme: The Sandwich Economy. Presented by Derek Cooper (r)
7.45 The Monday Play: Working Out. When Netty (Mair Leslie) sells one of her mother's jumpers, her hopes are dashed when she aspires to run a profitable cottage industry. To the accompaniment of authentic knitting sound effects, the cast of Louise Page's black comedy spins out a warning against the perils of greed and exploitation (s)
9.15 Kaleidoscope (s) (broadcast at 4.30pm)
9.45 The Financial World Tonight, with Nigel Cassidy (s) 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with David Seils (s)
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: Brother of the More Famous Jack. The first of an 11-part adaptation of Barbara Trapido's 1982 Whitbread Special Prize Winner in which Katherine enters the bohemian world of the Goldmans. Read by Cheryl Kennedy
11.00 The Million Pound Radio Show: Comedy show, starring Andy Hamilton, Nick Revell, Lesley Sharp and Jasper Jacob (s) (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament
12.00-12.30am News, incl 12.20 Weather 12.33 Shipping Forecast

FREQUENCIES Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m, 1089kHz/275m; FM 97.6-99.8 Radio 2: FM 88-90.2 Radio 3: 1215kHz/ 247m, FM 90-92.4 Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM 92.4-94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. World Service: MW 648kHz/463m. Jazz FM 102.2 LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m, FM 95.8 GLR: 1458kHz/206m, FM 94.9, Melody FM 104.9.

RADIO

FM Stereo and MW 5.00am Jenny Costello 6.30 Simon Mayo 9.00 Simon Bates 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Gary King 3.00 Steve Wright in the Afternoon 5.30 News '91 6.00 Jakki Brambles 7.30 Mark Goodier's Evening Session 9.00 In Concert Classic: U540, recorded at Brighton Conference Centre in November 1985 10.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00-2.00am Bob Harris with Jagged Edge in session (r)

FM Stereo 4.00am Alex Lester The Early Show 8.00 Ken Bruce 7.30 Derek Jameson 9.30 Kate Boyle 11.00 Jimmy Young 1.05pm David Jacobs 2.00 Gloria Hunniford 3.30 Clare Rayner Living with Alcohol 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Ruben Gregg says Thanks for the Memory 7.30 Alan Dell with Dance Band Days 8.30 Big Band Special 9.00 Humphrey Lyttelton with the Best of Jazz 10.00 Martin Kelner 12.05am Jazz Parade 12.35 Bill Rennells with Night Ride 3.00-4.00 A Little Night Music

6.00am World Service: Newsdesk 6.30 Morning Edition, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News Soon 9.00 Schools 10.25 1 2 3, 4, 5 for toddlers 10.40 The Family Business, incl 11.00 Sport 12.00 News, Sport 12.30pm Take Dmars: Vienna 1.00 Sport 1.05 As Radio 3 2.00 Sport 2.05 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (broadcast at 10.25am) 2.30 World Service, incl 3.00, 4.00 Sport 4.35 Five Aside 7.20 The Toby Man A story by Dick King-Smith (1 of 5) 7.35 Playing Beatrix Bow Rum Park's serial, set in Australia (3 of 4) 8.05 A Century Remembered: A Premonition of War The last portrait of the decade 1900-1910 8.35 Football Extra FA Cup quarter-final: West Ham v either Liverpool or Everton 9.30 The Mix, incl 10.00 Sport 11.00 Sport 11.05 World Service 11.58-12.05am Sport

All times in GMT 5.00am Morgenmagazin 5.35 News in German; Headlines in English and French 5.47 Press Review 5.52 The Week Ahead 5.56 Weather and Travel News 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Londres Nuit 8.58 Weather 7.00 News 7.09 24 Hours; News Summary and Financial News 7.30 Call Me When You're in Something

Thatcher's attack on Bonn clouds Major's summit of friendship

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

THE prime minister flies to Bonn today for a ministerial summit that threatens to be overshadowed by a strong warning from Margaret Thatcher against growing German power.

John Major intends to use the summit to seal Britain's new, post-Thatcher closeness with Germany and Downing Street has been reassured by the characteristically robust intervention by the former prime minister.

A spokesman refused to comment on whether Mrs Thatcher's remarks, made in television interviews in the United States, would make the prime minister's task in Bonn any easier. He said: "Mrs Thatcher's views on Germany and European unification are well known. Mr Major's are well known. I expect he will be saying something on the future of Europe during his visit."

Underlining the conciliatory tone adopted by the new prime minister towards European economic and monetary union, the spokesman said: "We have two intergovernmental conferences under way which are trying to work things out." However, Mrs Thatcher's remarks on German domination come at a difficult time for Mr Major as her former cabinet colleagues Thatcher criticise the government's handling of the poll tax review.

Mr Major will lead a team of five cabinet ministers for talks with Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, and other German leaders. He will be joined by Tom King, defence secretary, Douglas Hurd, foreign secretary, John Gummer, agriculture minister, Peter Lilley, trade secretary, and Chris Patten, the party chairman.

In a speech entitled "The Evolution of Europe" at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the prime minister is expected to outline his vision of relations with Germany and the future of Europe. He is also expected to use the visit as an opportunity to urge closer relations between the Tories and Germany's Christian Democrats.

Pointing to the difference in relations between the two countries since Mrs Thatcher's resignation, one source said Britain had made no attempt to take advantage of German difficulties over the Gulf conflict.

The timing of Mrs Thatcher's intervention caused dismay among some Conservative MPs as it indicated that she intends to remain a strong public opponent of European unification. In the American television interviews, she said: "The Germans would dominate Europe because they are the biggest country ... I think many of us would not necessarily like that and, so long as we are separate nations, then each of us can in fact control that."

She repeatedly referred to Britain's historical heritage, including its victorious role in the second world war and the age of its parliament. "We are 700 years old, Germany's parliament is only 40, Spain's a dozen years old, Portugal even less."

Conservative MPs attacked the timing of her remarks. Robert Rhodes-James, Conservative MP for Cambridge, said: "I think the timing does not help. It is irritating, but then no one apart from half a dozen unreconciled people give a damn what she says. This is the sort of rubbish that caused a change in the leadership. No one takes a blind bit of notice of her meanderings."

● BONN: In contrast to Nicholas Ridley's criticism of Germany last year, there was no reaction yesterday to Mrs Thatcher's latest comments (Ian Murray writes). An official explained that the difference was that Mr Ridley had been a serving member of the British government.

Warm relations, page 8

Belgrade tension eases after riot

From Dessa Trevisan In Belgrade

SECURITY remained tight in Belgrade last night despite the withdrawal of tanks from key points where they were deployed after violent demonstrations on Saturday when at least two people died.

Earlier yesterday dozens of army tanks had kept a restless peace on the streets after the violent clashes which Serbian opposition leaders accused the authorities of provoking.

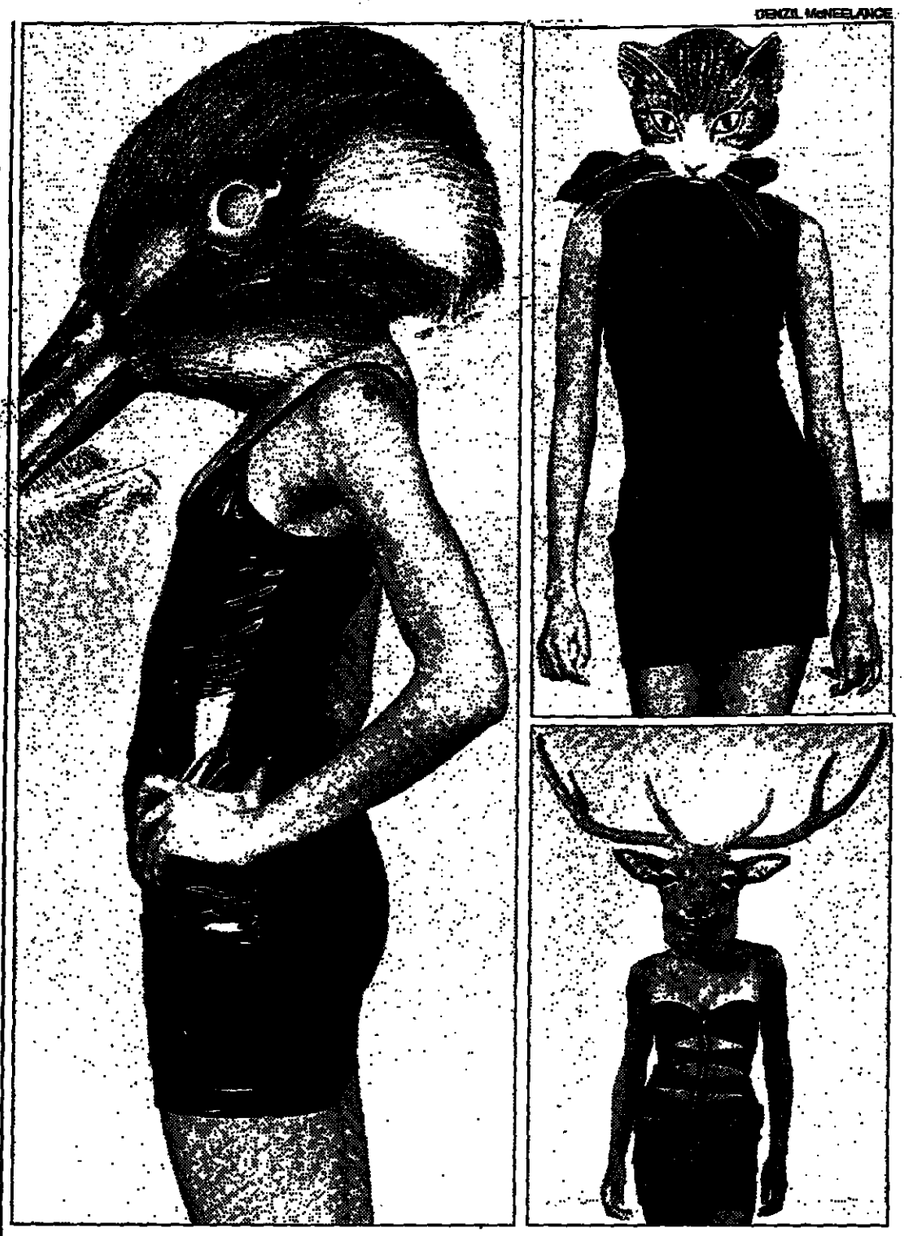
The army was brought in on Saturday night shortly after the situation appeared to have calmed down. They were backed by several Several thousand riot police who fired tear gas and charged passers-by. Earlier, the police used water cannon, tear gas and live bullets to disperse the crowd of about 70,000 mainly young people, who had initially stood peacefully waiting to demand a free press and protest against the communist monopoly of television. They called for the resignation of four editors, including the managing editor of Belgrade television.

Nearly 80 people were reported to have been injured, some of them seriously, as the opposition defied a ban on the protest. The police was evidently given the order to disperse the protest.

People smashed shop windows and fought pitched battles with the police. As fighting spread from the main square to other parts of the city, protestors shouted "Slobo-Stalin" and "Slobo-Saddam", equating Slobodan Milosevic, Serbia's hardline leader, with the Iraqi president.

The Yugoslav state presidency said it had ordered troops to keep order and guard key buildings at the request of the Serbian leader. But two of the eight members, Slovenia's representative Janez Drnovsek and Croatia's representative Stipe Mesic, dissociated themselves from the order and stating openly that they had voted against the use of troops. Mr Mesic emphasised that he regarded the protest as one between democracy and commmunism.

The Serbian opposition accused the ruling communists and in particular Mr Milosevic of provoking the crowd. Vuk Draskovic, the leader of the largest opposition party, the Serbian Renewal Movement, organised the planned peaceful demonstration against Communist control of media. He was arrested on Saturday in the Serbian parliament just as he and other opposition leaders were waiting for the arrival of Serbian prime minister to begin negotiations in an effort to find a peaceful way out.



DENZIL McNEELANCE

Beauty and the beast: animal masks giving a surreal touch to sexy vinyl and Lycra dresses

Fashion walks on wild side

By Liz Smith, Fashion Editor

FOR every designer, the fashion catwalk becomes a stage on which extravagant gestures of style must be made. At the London Designer Shows at the weekend, Helen Storey chose to add the surrealism of unicorn heads and theatrical animal masks to the parade of her latest line in sexy vinyl and Lycra dresses, for which she won a British Fashion Council award last season.

Vivienne Westwood, designer of the year, strapped a bearskin busby on to a model wearing one of her "hunting-pink" flared coats and twisted leather into a codpiece worn over an otherwise ladylike mid-calf corduroy skirt. Red or Dead sent out Amanda de Cadenet, the television presenter, in a long-trained silver lamé number escorted by a Liberace lookalike.

The Royal Court Theatre seemed, therefore, appropriate as the setting for the celebratory party that wound up a long weekend when the brave, the good (and, regrettably, the embarrassingly bad) in British fashion was on show. Hosted by Harvey Nichols, London's showcase of high style in Knightsbridge, the party brought to life its current run of shop windows starring papier-mâché caricatures of celebrated actors and London fashion designers. Proceeds from the party and raffle, drawn by Ruby Wax, the comedienne, go to the Olivier Appeal.

Attendance of international buyers and at the trade exhibition, installed in its chic new showcase in the Duke of York's barracks in London's Kings Road, was estimated to be 30 per cent down on the previous season. The lack of interest is more a reflection on the sorry state in retailing worldwide than the styles on show, which represented some of the most polished names in British high fashion, such as, Bellville Sassoon, Joseph, Jean Muir Studio, Murray Arbeid and Paul Costelloe.

If American retailers will not come to London to buy, British designers, like the Italians, are taking their collections to show in New York. Helen Storey will pack her offbeat collection of bin-bag crinolines and vinyl bodysuits and set off for New York next month to join the British Designer Collections whose mainstream style of evening clothes regularly sells well in stores from Palm Beach to Texas.

Russians vow to oppose Gorbachev's union plan

Continued from page 1

number seemed well educated. Some bore placards reading "No to a renewed empire", referring to the vote in which citizens will be asked to endorse or reject preservation of the Soviet Union as a "renewed federation".

Mr Yeltsin did not attend the Moscow demonstration, but gave it a rallying cry by declaring in a vitriolic speech on Saturday: "Let us declare war on the leadership of the country, which has led us into a quagmire." Clearly convinced that he has nothing to gain by compromising in his fight for political survival, he also toughened his position to a union treaty linking the Soviet republics, saying Russia had "dozens of objections" to the draft.

Three of the Russian Federation's most senior officials after Mr Yeltsin had initialled a text differing only slightly from the latest one. This had enabled the central authorities to claim that eight main republics endorsed the accord.

Both Mr Yeltsin and Gavriil Popov, the mayor of Moscow, made clear at the weekend that they unequivocally supported the formation of a well-organised mass movement to oppose the communists. The two had steered clear of party politics since walking out of the Communist party congress last summer.

Families greet Tornado crew

Continued from page 1

of trouble", which meant he did not notice two missiles were coming at him. The first hit the Tornado and although he saw the second one coming he could do nothing to avoid it. "At that stage, the aircraft was completely wrecked and the instruments were smashed. I could do nothing but glide it for about a minute. Then I ejected.

"It was fantastic with constant explosions for about one and a half seconds, but it felt like a whole lifetime. Then there was silence and you were hanging there on your parachute in the blue skies with the desert sands below you. But unfortunately it is Iraq below you."

He said he knew that other crews on the mission had seen him eject successfully which made him feel better because it would be known that he was alive. He did not see his navigator after the ejection.

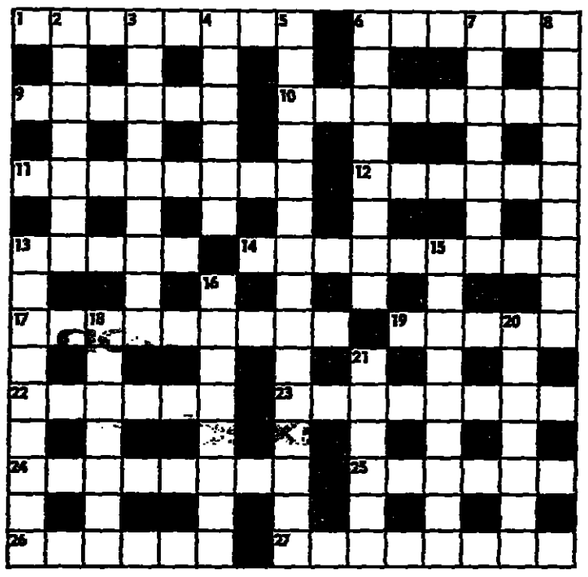
Flight Lieutenant John Nichol also appeared to have enjoyed ejecting into the desert, along with Flight Lieutenant John Peters, his pilot who was repatriated last week. "We had a bit of a laugh together," he said. "We sat in the desert for a while and had a discussion."

What happened next he would not say, but a couple of days later he appeared looking bruised and exhausted on Iraqi television saying: "I think this war should be stopped so we can go home. I do not agree on a war with Iraq." Flight Lieutenant Peters, who arrived back in Laarbruch last Thursday, emerged from the mess with a bottle of champagne. He was still saying nothing publicly but according to his close friend, Flight Lieutenant Rob Woods, he has been talking incessantly about his experiences since arriving home.

The first Gulf service personnel to return home to Britain yesterday flew in to a hero's welcome at RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire.

Full-time Royal Air Force personnel and 116 volunteers from the 4626 Air Evacuation Squadron of the Royal Auxiliaries, filled three VC10s for an eight-hour flight from Jubail and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,550



ACROSS
1 Available current needed for going into production (2,6).
6 Youngster is married in art school (6).
9 Crew man showing little variation in stroke (6).
10 Starving birds circling centre of barbourage (8).
11 Collect for service in China (8).
12 Renew the charge — arbitrator indisposed (6).
13 Race meeting for a northerner (5).
14 Contract for a concert (9).
17 Liable to tax provided in notes — one denomination (9).
19 Spiteful Enid's conversion (5).
22 Cato, perhaps, sounds like a swinger (6).
23 Provide version of prisoner's right (8).
24 Reported to be fighting idleness (8).
25 Hesitant claim to fur (6).
26 Soldiers in the northern approaches in Europe (6).
27 Tie up damaged net to fish (8).

DOWN
2 Scores for musical items in church? Just the reverse (7).
3 Giving an impression of imminent flight (6,3).
4 Why, say, soil on top is uncultivated (6).
5 A grim era dispelled with liberty under Union Charter (8,7).
6 Insurance restriction is removed before retirement (8).
7 One Isolde moved to love (7).
8 A Christmas hangover suffered by the host (9).
13 Reliance upon delivery carrying our Times (9).
15 Small fellow ready to fight for America (9).
16 Shortage of transport in southern metropolis (8).
18 Start of festival — not just amusements (7).
20 Working in daylight boy climbs round weird ruin (7).
21 At home, depression set in (6).

PARKER DUOFOLD

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 18,549 will appear next Saturday. The 5 winners will receive a Duofold fountain pen supplied by Parker

Concise Crossword, page 15

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

BIBLICALS

HUZ AND BUZ
a. Temple purification
b. Amalekite gods
c. Nephews of Abraham

DRUSILLA
a. The wife of Felix
b. A converted servant
c. An early heretic

ASHER
a. Son of Jacob
b. The Philistine god
c. A day of fasting

JOEL
a. A general of David's
b. A prophet
c. Samuel's father

Answers on page 18, column 1

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks
C. London (within N & S Circs.) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T. 733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23 734
M-ways/roads M23-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roundworks
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Eastern England and much of Scotland will be cloudy, perhaps with early rain around the Wash. There will be brighter spells this morning before rain spreads from the South-West. Central and north-west England, and south-west Scotland, will be cloudy; patchy rain this morning will become heavier later. Wales, Northern Ireland and south-west England will be cloudy with rain. Outlook: unsettled, with rain, but mild.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	16	61	s	Majorca	19	66	s
Alicante	17	63	f	Malaga	20	68	f
Alex'dria	24	75	s	Malta	18	61	f
Algiers	19	66	c	Melb'rne	18	64	s
Amst'dm	14	57	s	Miami*	30	86	c
Athens	15	59	c	Milan	13	55	r
Barbade*	30	86	c	Montreal*	-6	21	s
Barcelna	18	64	s	Moscow	-2	28	s
Belgrade	7	45	c	Munich	9	48	c
Berlin	11	52	c	Nairobi	25	77	c
Bermuda*	18	64	c	Naples	16	61	c
Biarritz	13	55	c	N Delhi	28	82	s
Borde'x	15	59	f	N York*	4	39	s
Brussels	14	57	r	Nice	15	59	s
Budapst	11	52	s	Oslo	1	34	d
B Aires*	28	79	f	Paris	13	55	c
Cairo	27	81	s	Peking	5	41	f
Cape Tn	22	72	f	Perth	27	81	s
C'blanca	17	63	s	Prague	10	50	r
Chicago*	1	34	sn	Reykjavik	2	36	s
Ch'church	16	61	s	Rhodes	17	63	f
Cologne	15	59	r	Rio de J	29	84	s
C'pnagn	5	41	c	Rome	16	61	r
Corfu	14	57	r	Salzburg	9	48	c
Dublin	11	52	c	S F'isco*	13	55	r
Dubrovnik	19	66	f	Santiago*	31	88	s
Faro	17	63	f	S Paulo*	30	86	s
Florence	17	63	s	Seoul	4	39	c
Frankfurt	13	55	s	Sing'por	31	88	f
Funchal	18	68	s	St'kholm	1	34	d
Geneva	7	45	c	Strasb'rg	14	57	r
Gibraltar	18	61	c	Sydney	21	70	c
Helsinki	-3	27	c	Tangier	18	64	s
Hong K	21	70	c	Tel Aviv	19	66	s
Innsbruck	10	50	c	Tenerife	19	66	f
Istanbul	9	48	c	Tokyo	14	57	r
Jo'burg*	25	77	f	Toronto*	1	34	sn
Karachi	25	79	s	Tunis	18	61	c
L Palmas	19	66	r	Valencia	21	70	r
Las Tjast	11	52	r	Vanc'ver*	7	45	r
Lisbon	16	61	c	Venice	14	57	c
Locarno	14	57	c	Vienna	7	45	c
L Angels*	16	64	r	Warsaw	3	37	c
Luxmbg	12	54	r	Wash'ton*	8	46	s
Luxor	30	86	s	Wel'ton	16	61	s
Madrid	17	63	r	Zurich	9	48	c

* Denotes figures are latest available

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 11C (52F); min 6pm to 6am, 9C (48F). Humidity: 6pm, 81 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.02 in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Bar: mean sea level, 6pm, 1,006.0 millibars, rising.
Saturday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 11C (52F); min 6pm to 6am, 9C (48F). Humidity: 6pm, 75 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, trace. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6pm, 999.9 millibars, rising.
1,000 millibars=29.53in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Saturday: Highest day temp: Cromer, Norfolk, 13C (55F); lowest day max: St Abb's Head, near Berwick, 6C (43F); highest rainfall: Lerwick, Shetland, 0.63 in; highest sunshine: Clacton, Essex, 6.5 hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 12C (54F); min 6pm to 6am, 6C (43F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.03 in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 0.5 hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 11C (52F); min 6pm to 6am, 7C (45F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, trace. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 0.2 hr.

UK

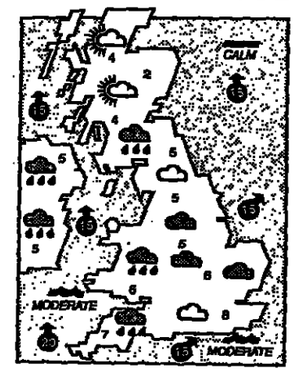
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.9	.02	11	52	bright
Anglesey	0.1	-	13	55	bright
Aviemore	1.0	-	11	52	cloudy
Belfast	4.9	-	13	55	sunny
Birmingham	-	.17	10	50	rain
Blackpool	0.3	-	12	54	bright
Bournemouth	-	.35	11	52	rain
Brighton	0.1	.23	9	48	rain
Bristol	0.2	.23	13	55	rain
Buxton	-	.09	9	48	drizzle
Cardiff	0.6	.50	12	54	rain
Clacton	0.8	.07	8	46	rain
Edinburgh	0.1	.03	11	52	cloudy
Falmouth	-	-	12	54	cloudy
Glasgow	0.2	-	11	52	dull
Guernsey	4.0	.50	14	57	rain
Hastings	-	.12	9	48	rain
Hunstanton	2.6	-	12	54	bright
Jersey	2.0	.13	13	55	shower
Kirkwall	0.1	.08	11	52	rain
Leeds	0.5	.05	10	50	rain
Lerwick	0.2	.18	7	45	fog
London	-	.01	11	52	rain
Lowestoft	3.6	.06	11	52	rain
Manchester	0.6	.03	12	54	rain
Minehead	1.8	.21	14	57	shower
Morecambe	0.2	.01	12	54	rain
Nottingham	-	.03	10	50	rain
Penzance	1.9	.42	12	54	shower
Plymouth	1.4	-	x	x	drizzle
Poole	-	.46	11	52	rain
Scilly Isles	1.3	.20	13	55	rain
Shanklin	0.5	.29	10	50	rain
Southend	0.4	.04	10	50	shower
Southsea	1.4	.14	11	52	rain
St. Ives	1.7	.32	13	55	cloudy
Stornoway	0.1	.02	9	48	cloudy
Tenby	-	.16	9	48	dull
Torquay	1.8	.20	13	55	cloudy
Weymouth	0.5	.35	11	52	rain
Wick	-	.34	9	48	rain
Worthing	1.2	.18	10	50	rain

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

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Dorset,Hants & IOW 703
Devon & Cornwall 704
Wilts,Glouos,Avon,Soms 705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon 706
Beds,Herts & Essex 707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs 708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent 709
Shropa,Hereds & Worcs 710
Central Midlands 711
East Midlands 712
Lincs & Humberside 713
Dyfed & Powys 714
Gwynedd & Clwyd 715
N W England 716
W & S Yorks & Dales 717
N E England 718
Cumbria & Lake District 719
S W Scotland 720
W Central Scotland 721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders 722
E Central Scotland 723
Grampian & E Highlands 724
N W Scotland 725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland 726
N Ireland 727

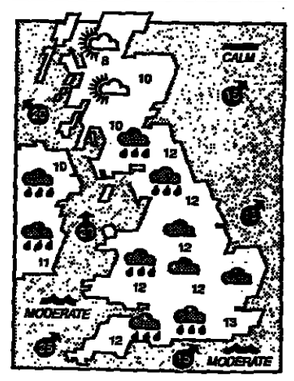
Weathercall is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.



MIDDAY YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	11	52	s	Guernsey	11	52	s
Bmngham	9	48	r	Inverness	9	48	c
Blackpool	12	54	r	Jersey	11	52	f
Bristol	10	50	r	London	10	50	r
Cardiff	9	48	r	M'chester	11	52	r
Edinburgh	9	48	c	Newcastle	11	52	c
Glasgow	9	48	c	R'nkleway	8	46	fg



SUN & MOON

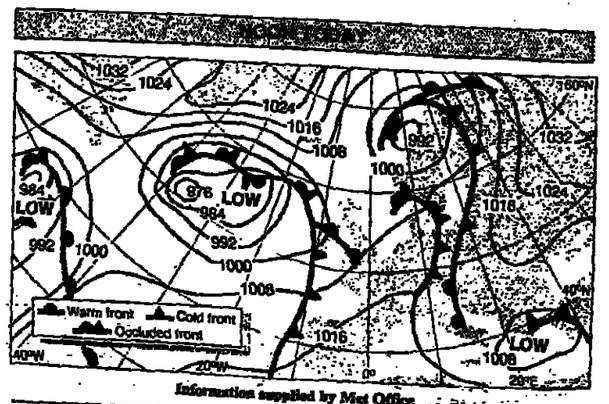
London 5.57 pm to 6.23 am
Bristol 6.07 pm to 6.33 am
Edinburgh 5.07 pm to 5.58 am
Manchester 6.05 pm to 6.32 am
Penzance 6.20 pm to 6.44 am

Sun rises: 6.25 am
Sun sets: 5.57 pm
Moon rises 4.21 am
Moon sets 12.29 pm
New Moon March 16

TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TOMORROW	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	9.55	5.3	10.14	5.4	Liverpool	7.37	7.0	8.28	7.5
Aberdeen	9.42	3.2	10.47	3.3	Lowestoft	9.22	1.9	9.48	1.9
Avonmouth	2.54	8.9	3.38	9.2	Margate	9.26	3.8	9.34	3.7
Belfast	7.16	2.8	7.55	2.7	Milford Haven	2.27	4.9	3.11	4.9
Cardiff	2.30	8.4	3.23	8.7	Newquay	1.26	5.0	2.08	5.0
Devonport	1.01	4.2	1.47	4.1	Oban	2.52	3.0	3.29	2.9
Dover	7.48	4.8	8.16	5.0	Penzance	12.17	4.2	1.00	4.1
Falmouth	12.31	4.0	1.17	3.9	Portland	1.28	1.3	3.30	1.2
Glasgow	8.58	3.8	9.51	3.5	Portsmouth	7.25	3.5	8.10	3.6
Harwich	8.12	2.9	8.29	2.9	Shoreham	7.23	4.4	8.14	4.7
Holyhead	8.57	4.2	7.51	4.2	Southampton	7.03	3.6	8.11	3.6
Hull	2.22	5.2	2.37	5.6	Swansea	2.13	6.8	2.54	6.7
Ilfracombe	2.04	6.4	2.47	6.4	Tees	—	—	12.04	4.1
King's Lynn	2.45	4.3	3.02	4.6	W'ton-on-Naze	8.06	3.0	8.27	3.1
Leith	11.3	4.2	11.52	4.3					

Tide in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.



Information supplied by Met Office

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Market hopes for more rate cuts

By Colin Narbrough
Economics Correspondent

PERSISTENT market expectations of a further cut in base rates, possibly before the Budget on March 19, could put upward pressure on share prices again after the markets last week reached new peaks.

The FT-SE 100 share index closed at 2,455 on Friday. Though below Wednesday's high, the index was only 8.7 short of its best close, on January 3 last year.

Economic indicators published this week will provide more information on the depth of the recession, underlining the need to bring interest rates down quickly.

Economists will focus on the producer prices data for February, published tomorrow, as a guide to inflation.

Forecasts centre on the annual rise in manufacturers' factory gate prices slowing to 6.2 per cent from 6.3 per cent in January, supporting government claims that it has inflation on the run. Output prices are viewed by the Bank of England as the best measure of inflation.

Unemployment figures on Thursday are expected to show a jump of 60,000 in February, pushing the headline total of jobless above 2 million. Despite the sharp increase in unemployment, analysts believe the annual rise in average earnings will still be stuck at 9.75 per cent.

It is widely hoped that fresh cuts in interest rates will encourage an important shift to lower pay deals.

Negotiators to discuss Gatt policy

From George Brock
in Brussels

SENIOR negotiators from America and the European Community meet in Geneva today for exploratory negotiations on the highly charged agricultural section of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) talks.

Farm subsidy rows derailed the four-year Uruguay round of Gatt in Brussels in December and a compromise formula to restart the talks was found only late last month. But today's talks, to continue through the week, will deal with technical matters, away from the toughest political disagreements.

Officials will discuss the kinds of agricultural supports that governments might legitimately pay under a Gatt agreement that cut subsidies promoting overproduction and artificially cheap exports. Shifting subsidy expenditure to direct income support for farmers is a policy change that would probably be allowed.

Midland plays down sale talk

By Matthew Bond

MIDLAND Bank, which last week became the first clearing bank to cut its dividend for more than 50 years, yesterday tried to calm speculation that it planned to sell Thomas Cook, its travel agent.

"Midland regularly receives enquiries from parties interested in acquiring Thomas Cook. It reviews such enquiries of interest as a matter of course," said a spokesman.

But he had no comment on similar reports that the bank was also considering selling Samuel Montagu, its merchant banking arm.

In 1990 Thomas Cook made pre-tax profits of £28 million and Samuel Montagu £55 million. The Midland group made an overall profit of just £11 million.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8735 (-0.0265)
W German mark
2.9212 (+0.0060)
Exchange index
93.6 (-0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1958.7 (+40.5)
FT-SE 100
2455.0 (+68.1)
New York Dow Jones
2955.20 (+45.3)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
26607.62 (+725.95)

* * * * * *

BA board calls for further review of jobs

By John Bell, Business Editor

BRITISH Airways is to carry out an urgent board-level review of its operations after what it sees as adverse government decisions to transfer Japanese routes to Richard Branson's Virgin Airlines and to allow easier access to Heathrow by BA's international competitors.

BA is also concerned that current bilateral talks between British and American regulators may lead to the rescue of Pan American Airlines at the expense of further pressures on BA's business.

Ahead of the review, BA is worried that recent developments, following the impact of the Gulf war on international travel, will hit group profits hard.

Marginally profitable and loss-making routes will be examined and staffing levels reassessed despite a substantial programme of job cuts announced earlier this year. So far, 4,660 staff have been made redundant. One solution to be examined is for BA to reduce costs by grounding parts of its fleet.

Lord King, the BA chairman, will not discuss details. But it is thought that domestic services in Scotland, including the Highlands and Islands division plus the Glasgow to New York services, will be given close scrutiny.

"In the light of these new circumstances, we must now take a serious look at the whole of our business," Lord King said yesterday.

He made it clear that any cost-savings emerging from the review would be in addition to those already gained by job losses and route closures announced so far this year.

On Friday, BA announced the closure of five routes, including flights to Pakistan and central Africa. This year, BA has withdrawn from flights to the Republic of Ireland, cut its Gatwick to Amsterdam service, withdrawn from the Bahamas and dropped its Concorde service from Washington to Miami.

BA is most upset over the transfer of four Heathrow landing slots to Mr Branson's Virgin operations.

Virgin's plans to fly to Japan plus the expected agreement for Virgin to fly alongside BA across the North Atlantic, which is being discussed in the bilateral talks, will lead to substantial revenues for Mr Branson's privately owned airline. Analysts estimate that in a full year these could amount to £1 billion.

The decision to transfer the Japanese routes to Virgin is straining relations between BA and Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary. BA feels that having successfully privatised the airline, the government is hurting shareholders by taking a far tougher regulatory stance than was implied by the terms of its prospectus.

Airline industry sources expect that the bilateral talks will lead to agreement for United Airlines and American Airlines to take over the Heathrow routes operated by the troubled Pan Am and TWA. In exchange, Britain is hoping for greater rights within the heavily protected American market. But these may need further bilateral agreements with European and North American regulators before they can be put into effect.

The City is already braced for grim news when BA reveals profits for the year to end-March. Higher oil costs, a slump in traffic due to the Gulf conflict, and exceptional redundancy costs, have all taken their toll. Analysts expect little more than pre-tax profits of £150 million before taking account of income from aircraft sales. This will leave the total well short of the £345 million recorded last year. The current year looks even more difficult and may lead to even lower profits and a threat to BA's divident payments.

Intasun sale hopes suffer setback

By Our City Staff

THE administrators fighting to save International Leisure Group, Harry Goodman's Air Europe and Intasun holiday company, after its collapse last week said yesterday the chances of selling Intasun as a going concern had been seriously reduced.

Intasun has been prevented from selling holidays because the Tour Operators Study Group had called in the Association of British Travel Agents bond. This means ILG's holiday businesses no longer have bonds giving financial guarantees. They cannot operate without them.

ILG has also had its Abta membership withdrawn. Without an Abta licence the group can no longer sell holidays through Abta members who make up the vast majority of travel agents.

Tim Hayward, one of the joint administrators from KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, said: "I am disappointed that TOSG took action so swiftly having regard to the position that there were already parties expressing interest in acquiring the business. Clearly their action reduces the prospects for a going concern sale."

The prospects for Air Europe have also diminished. The Civil Aviation Authority has told the administrators it intends to suspend the airline's licence on Wednesday unless a well-funded purchaser has agreed in principle to buy the airline. Any deal struck by the administrators is subject to CAA approval.

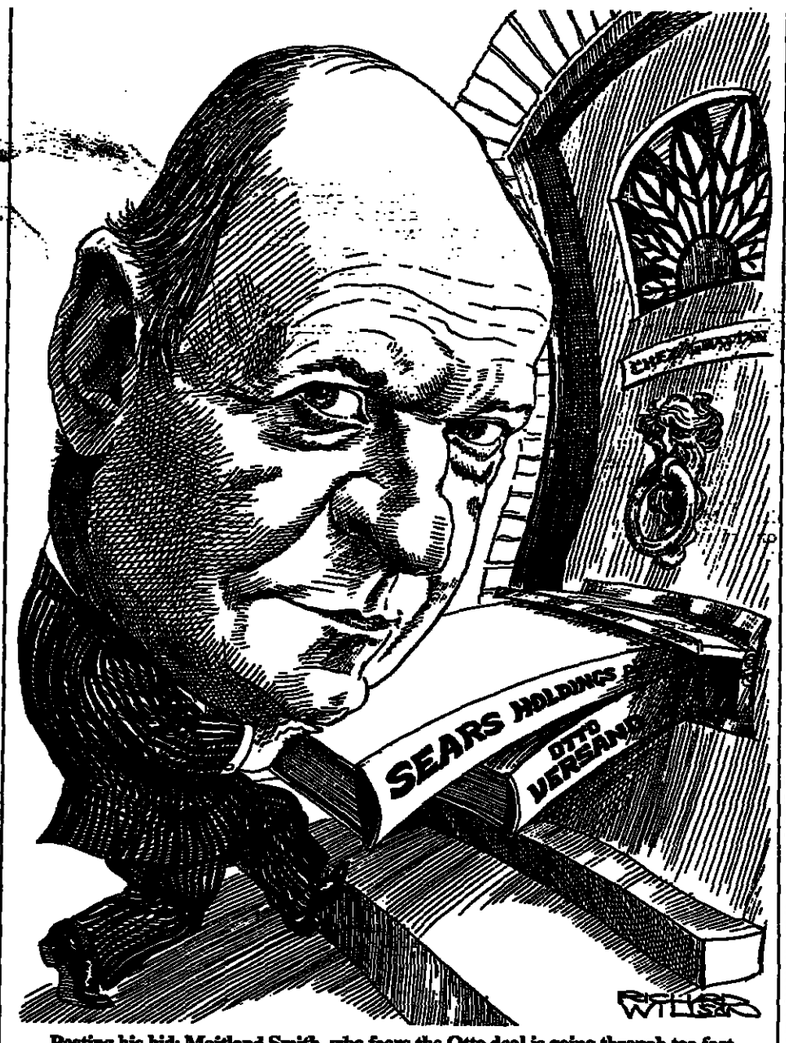
Mr Hayward said: "We are under extreme time pressure to effect a sale as the value of the business is diminishing daily". Philip Wallace, another administrator, said he was talking to interested parties about the purchase of Air Europe. All the parties already operate in the airline or travel industry.

Pan Am fights for extra time

EXECUTIVES of Pan Am continued to argue for extra time to repay a multi-million loan yesterday as staff were assuring passengers at airport gates that it had no plans to shut down (Philip Robinson writes from New York).

Pan Am missed repayment on a $100 million loan from Bankers Trust at midnight on Friday and a court ruling that day effectively gave owners of about 100 of its leased aircraft authority to seize the planes. Sources close to the main Pan Am creditors say there is no evidence that any of them want to act precipitously.

Pan Am's survival hinges on the Washington talks between British and American aviation regulators which were due to end in agreement on Friday, but are still going on. Britain is reluctant to approve Pan Am's London route sale until America gives British Airways and Virgin greater access to the American market.



Posting his bid: Maitland Smith, who fears the Otto deal is going through too fast

Next favours Otto link

By Gillian Bowditch

DAVID Jones, chief executive of Next, says he is prepared to back Otto-Versand's £151 million offer for Grattan, Next's mail order business, even though it is £4 million less than the £155 million offered by Sears, because he believes the link between the German mail order group and Next is worth more in the long term.

But Geoffrey Maitland Smith, chairman of Sears, is worried that a deal with Otto is being pushed through too quickly. "It does feel as if they are trying to conduct a public auction with a one-sided auctioneer," he says.

Sears believes that if it merged its mail order business, Freemans, with Grattan, the combined business would make an extra £25 million a year in profits.

Next's shareholders have to choose between the two offers. On Wednesday they will vote on the Otto offer. Proxy votes have to be registered by noon today. The proxy votes stand even if there are further developments in the bid battle. Wednesday's meeting could be adjourned but a decision will not be made until the day.

Mr Jones said yesterday that he felt the deal with Otto was best for Next shareholders in the longer term. "If Otto were offering £120 million and Sears were offering £5 million more, we would probably have had to accept the higher offer," he said. "But because the level of the Otto bid secures the future of Next financially for at least the next two-and-a-half years, the extra £4 million is less important."

Not only would Next be happier with Otto servicing the distribution contract of the directory, Mr Jones said, but there was a possibility Otto could help to launch the Next Directory in other countries. Sears was a direct competitor.

Mr Maitland Smith said his team had gone through the contract point by point last Wednesday with Next. He said Next need have no fears about Sears' ability to service the directory. "We cannot understand these excuses for not recommending the higher offer. Next's shareholders have been warned of the dire state of Next's finances. Our offer is the same as Otto's in every respect and it is £4 million more."

Mike Hawker, managing director of Freemans, said the combined business could make the extra £25 million in profits through cost savings, volume benefits and increasing Grattan's profitability. "Grattan makes profits of roughly 3 per cent of sales whereas Freemans' profits are 6 per of sales."

He admitted that some redundancies may be necessary but said Otto had given no assurances on jobs and, after 1992, may rationalise its entire European mail order business.

Registered buyers win power boost

By Matthew Bond

REGISTERING in advance for a prospectus for the two power generating companies has paid off. Almost one in three of the registered applicants for shares in National Power and PowerGen will receive all the shares applied for. But the 200,000 applicants who did not register in advance will receive none.

The allocation of shares to be announced today by John Wakeham, the energy secretary, honours a commitment by the government that registered applicants would receive preferential treatment.

Trading in part-paid shares begins tomorrow at 2.30pm, when a 20 per cent premium is expected for private shareholders. Under the allocation devised over the weekend, individuals who applied for between 300 shares, the minimum, and 1,500 will receive 300 shares.

About 31 per cent of applications were for 300 shares. Higher applications have been scaled down, but not nearly as much as for the distributors' privatisation.

Power: what the private investor will get

Shares applied for	Shares allocated
300-1,500	300
2,000	350
2,500	350
3,000	350
4,000	450
5,000	500
10,000	1,000
15,000 and above	None
All non-registered applicants	None

Applicants for 2,000-3,000 will receive 350, while those who applied for 4,000 receive 450. Applications for 5,000 and 10,000 will receive 500 and 1,000 respectively.

Only individuals who applied for more than 15,000 shares or more will get none. It is believed that under 5,000 applications have been excluded by this decision.

A total of 1.93 million applications, for shares worth £3.13 billion, were received from the public, covering the issue five times. The government has also received a £42 million bonus from its "back-end" tender for 16 per cent.

Despite speculation that the Japanese would emerge as big bidders, European institutions have taken most advantage. With the public owning 49 per cent, British institutions have 27 per cent, European funds 10 per cent and the Japanese 6 per cent.

Maxwell likely to extend deadline for unions in US newspaper talks

From Charles Bremner
in New York

AFTER four days of bargaining, Robert Maxwell was expected to extend his deadline today for a union agreement that would clear the way for his purchase of the New York *Daily News*, the tabloid crippled by a strike since October.

Mr Maxwell has been offered $60 million by the Tribune Company of Chicago, the *News* owner, to take the paper off its hands, with more than $100 million of pension and severance liabilities. The company, which has fought a year-long war over union control of production and delivery, says it will close the paper on Friday if Mr Maxwell withdraws. He had originally set a deadline of 10 am New York time today.

The publisher flew home yesterday, leaving Charles Wilson, a former editor of *The Times* and now a Mirror Group executive, running the talks with the unions. A source close to the talks said the *bonhomie* cultivated by Mr Maxwell on Friday, the opening day, had collapsed on Saturday after he revealed that he wanted much the same concessions from the unions as the News had. The source said: "The unions went crazy."

On Saturday, Mr Maxwell prepared a little of the atmosphere by offering lavish liquid hospitality to the nine union bosses. A source said: "He overdid the hospitality. Some of them were three sheets to the wind by the end of it."

Although the initial goodwill gave way to some tension, George McDonald, head of the union coalition, said he remained optimistic about a settlement.

By acquiring the *News*, Mr Maxwell would achieve his ambition of owning a big American newspaper. Until its strike, the paper sold 1.2 million copies a day, the third largest American metropolitan circulation. However, the newspaper has been losing circulation for about two decades and most analysts give it little chance of survival after the damage inflicted by the strike.

The unions waged a successful campaign to convince New Yorkers they were victims of the greed of an out-of-town company. Through intimidation and solidarity with the unions, newsagents have mostly refused to sell a strike edition produced by management and replacement staff.

The newspaper is said to have lost $114 million last year and is estimated to be losing $700,000 a day now.

Marks the spot for a City takeaway

By Our City Staff

TRADITIONAL sandwich bars and gleaming fast-food outlets alike face a new threat from today — Marks and Spencer opens its first take-away food shop in the City. The Take Away Stop occupies 2,000 sq ft of the new 9,000 sq ft M&S food store in Moorgate and orders can be telephoned or faxed.

The Take Away Stop will offer new M&S luxury sandwiches and snacks, including jumbo, American-style sandwiches and egg, sausage, bacon and tomato breakfast baps. Multiple orders for lunchtime can be telephoned or faxed before 10 am and collected from a designated till. A sandwich platter service can be ordered the day before. The takeaway shop accepts luncheon vouchers.

The new store, run by Julia Todd, the manageress, is something of a departure for M&S and the group is hoping for strong corporate business as companies hit by the recession cut down on expense account lunches. The 50 staff aim to keep queuing in the shop to a minimum. More takeaway shops may open.

The group is already Britain's biggest seller of sandwiches and its chicken tikka and American salt beef specialities are snapped up at Le Snack Shop in M&S's Paris store. Both the store and the takeaway shop will be open from 7.30 am to 7 pm Monday to Friday and 9 am to 6 pm on Saturday. The new store is M&S's 22nd food store and its 290th shop.

The group plans to add another four stores, 150,000 sq ft of selling space, in the next few months. M&S's first joint venture with Asda will open in Pudsey, near Leeds, next month.

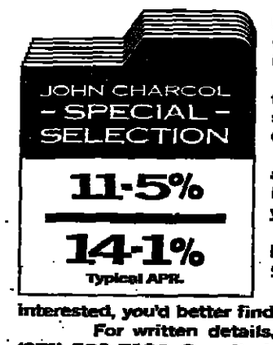
The group already has two edge-of-town joint ventures with Tesco and is completing one with Sainsbury at the end of the year. M&S is opening foodstores in Christchurch, Dorset, this month and in Northern Ireland in June.



Julia Todd: fax service

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Yamani seeks new era in oil pricing

From ALAN MCGREGOR IN GENEVA

SHEIKH Ahmed Zaki Yamani, former Saudi Arabian oil minister, has called for a "new era" in oil pricing, proposing a structure that would stabilise the price and secure the supply.

Speaking before today's meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Geneva, Sheikh Yamani said the aim was a stable and reasonable price for oil and security of supply. He called for a meeting of leading producing and consuming countries and oil companies.

"There is a strong feeling of urgency, there could still be the enough thought to the prospect of some pumping illegally prepared for a new era – but an immediate conference would fail; it must be adequately prepared," he said.

As a first step, the Global Centre for Energy Studies, which he heads, is convening a meeting of government and oil industry policymakers. They would have to show that, in the Gulf war aftermath, it was possible to fix ceiling and floor prices for petroleum.

Sheikh Yamani thought there was a 50-50 chance of temporary stability if Opec ministers, headed by Dr Subroto, the secretary general, agreed on reducing the cartel's production – with neither Kuwait nor Iraq in the market – to 21 million barrels per day instead of close to 24 million bpd, as at present. Even with some over-quota output, the price drop during the second quarter would then be cushioned. Demand estimates over that same period were about 21.5 million.

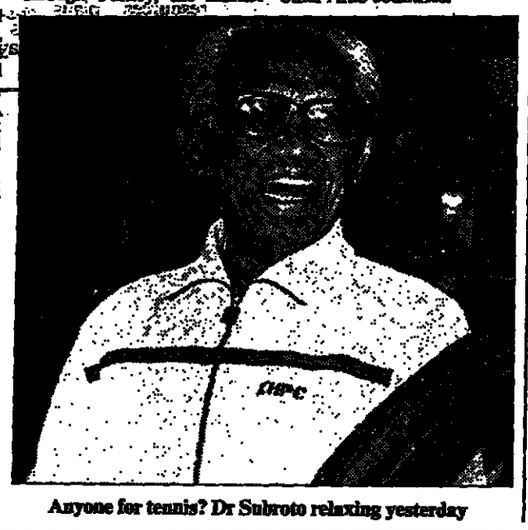
With forward consumption stocks, which are expensive to maintain, now at least 98 days, a marked fall in price due to Opec over-production would cause companies to drop their stocks into the market and set off a price collapse, followed eventually by steep increases.

Sheikh Yamani said that if, assuming UN sanctions were lifted, Iraq restarted substantial production, the companies would also react by destocking quickly. While the southern pumping system there had been heavily damaged, there could still be the prospect of some pumping from Basra to the north.

If as much as 1.65 million bpd of Iraqi oil were going out through Turkey, the market price could collapse to $12 or less. He believed that, were sanctions abolished and financing available, Iraq could resume some production by the middle of the year.

Underlining the need for international cooperation to prevent unnecessary fluctuation in oil prices, he said: "You cannot later on, ask Kuwait or Iraq to restrain their production. Both would want high exports." With the war having cost it $50 billion, Saudi Arabia, too, would seek greater production.

An Opec accord on 21 million bpd would give Saudi Arabia about 7.5 million bpd, instead of 8.5 million, excluding crude pumped as loans to other Arab countries.



Anyone for tennis? Dr Subroto relaxing yesterday

CBI warns on late payment

THE Confederation of British Industry is to set up a working party to investigate the late payment of bills, which it says threatens the survival of one small firm in every five (Ross Tieman writes).

The employers' organisation says voluntary solutions must be explored and implemented soon if legislation is to be avoided.

But the problems are so grave that Tom O'Connor, chairman of the CBI's small firms council, hinted that the CBI may support new laws to confront the problem should its initiative fail.

A survey undertaken last year by the CBI and Cork Gully, the insolvency arm of the accountant Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, found late payment endangered 20 per cent of small firms. A large number of companies reported the problem had worsened over the past five years.

British are the 'worst savers'

BRITAIN may be top of the European league for using credit but it is still bottom when it comes to saving, reports a new survey.

The pan-European report by Mintel found the British saved only 5.1 per cent of their earnings, while the Italians put away 21.8 per cent.

Research is key

GOOD quality marketing research is the key to export growth, says the British Chambers of Commerce. It has started an intensive training initiative for exporters, and hopes to help companies to fill a vital gap in their marketing skills.

Balmoral eyes are on Europe

DAVID HUTCHISON



Ambitions for an international hotel chain: Peter Tyrie in the Palm Court at the Balmoral Hotel, Edinburgh

PETER Tyrie, the managing director of the Balmoral International luxury hotel group, is already planning the second phase of expansion (Matthew Bond writes).

Phase one ended a fortnight ago, with the completion of a £23 million refurbishment of Edinburgh's North British Hotel. The 170 bedroom hotel, now renamed the Balmoral and once again open for business, is the company's flagship.

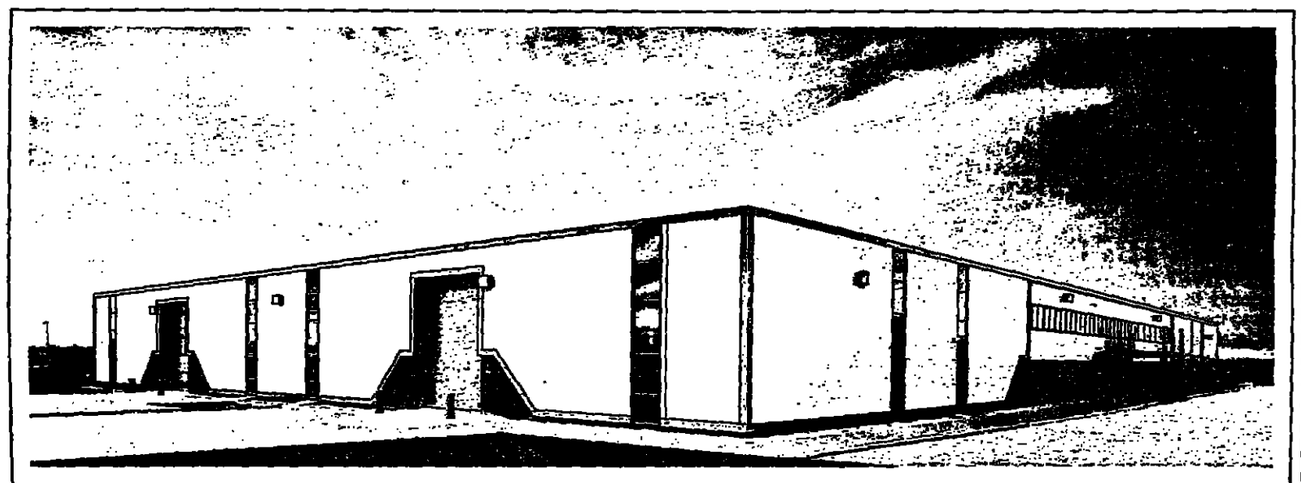
Mr Tyrie is not unhappy about the timing of the reopening despite the slowdown in the hotel industry. He said: "Since we opened, the Gulf war has finished and base rates have come down a point. There is a huge amount of local support for the Balmoral, which is a splendid building."

Mr Tyrie is sticking to Balmoral's original plan of building up an international chain. He envisages acquiring ten to 15 hotels, primarily in Europe, with five or six likely in Britain. Balmoral currently has just two hotels, the Balmoral in Edinburgh and the Old Swan in Harrogate. Mr Tyrie bought them last July for £45 million from Queens Moat Houses.

With the Edinburgh hotel now open, his thoughts are already turning to the Old Swan, where Balmoral has submitted plans for a refurbishment of the hotel plus a 30,000 sq ft extension that would enable it to reopen as a five-star country club and spa. But such plans require money and Mr Tyrie says work is not likely to commence until Balmoral, a private company, has expanded its capital base. Mr Tyrie said: "We are looking to introduce new shareholders into the group."

Any new fund-raising is likely to start, at least, in Hong Kong and the Far East, where Mr Tyrie's four-year stint as managing director of Mandarin Oriental hotels won him admirers.

Mr Tyrie envisages Balmoral having a capital base of about £200 million before it moves on to exploit the growing opportunities in the luxury hotel business.



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WDA

Fiat drops out of Pirelli support

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

Pirelli, the Italian tyre company, has been dealt a further blow in its attempt to merge with Continental, its German rival, with the disclosure that Fiat, a key supporter, no longer owns shares in Continental.

The revelation, by Gianni Agnelli, chairman of Fiat, which is one of Pirelli's principal customers, follows earlier claims that Fiat held between 2 and 4 per cent of the German company. Signor Agnelli's comments suggest that Fiat has sold the shares to a third party. His remarks help explain, however, a Fiat announcement last week that the company would not be represented at Continental's extraordinary meeting on Wednesday.

Pirelli had previously said it had more than 50 per cent of shareholder support for the merger. Shareholders who speak for 24 per cent of Continental have declared public support for the Italian company. They include Mediobanca, the Milan merchant bank, and other Italian companies and institutions. Continental supporters include Germany's three principal car makers, Daimler-Benz, BMW and Volkswagen, as well as Deutsche Bank, Norddeutsche Landesbank and Allianz, the insurance company.

The meeting will vote on five proposals. Four require a simple majority, but the fifth, and most important, which relates to the acceptance of Pirelli's offer, requires shareholder support of at least 75 per cent. Continental has amassed sufficient support to block the proposal. But Pirelli remains confident that it can win acceptance on some of the other proposals, in particular the abolition of the 5 per cent voting restriction that prevents Pirelli building a significant stake in the company.

While Continental may block the merger proposal, the company's management board would still be severely embarrassed if Pirelli enjoys the support that it claims, and management changes could follow at Continental.

● The UK trade department has cleared Continental's £140 million buy of National Tyre Service from Michelin.

Managers' pay rises dip to 9.2%

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PAY awards for private sector managers fell in the three months ending January and companies hit hardest by the recession are paying less, according to Incomes Data Services.

IDS notes, in its March issue of *Top Pay Review*, a growing divergence of settlements from the average rise of 9.2 per cent.

The latest rise is a full percentage point below the 10.2 per cent average increase recorded by IDS in the three months ending July. But it remains marginally above the 9 per cent average during the November-to-January period a year ago.

The review says: "Recession and a fall in the headline rate of inflation have combined to push the average level of executive pay awards downwards from last spring's peak."

The research group gives warning that its latest study may understate the impact of the recession. The figures take no account of companies which have deferred awarding rises to executives.

First marketing change since krugerrand

World's largest gold coin launched by Australia

THEY do things big in Australia – and kangaroos can leap. Don Mackay-Coghill – the man who helped to put 44 million ounces of gold in the form of the South African Krugerrand on the world map – has now come up with a jumbo gold coin weighing one kilogram, or 32.151 ounces.

The jumbo Australian nugget is 99.99 per cent pure gold. It is the largest gold bullion coin in the world and has a face value of Aus$10,000 (£4,094). The coins are 75mm in diameter, 12.9mm thick and feature as their design a leaping kangaroo.

They are being launched under the auspices of Gold-Corp Australia, a division of the Perth Mint, that also launched the koala, the Australian platinum coin, and the original nugget gold coin series.

The 32.151 ounce coin, together with a ten ounce and a two ounce mini-jumbo version – with face values of Aus$2,500 and Aus$500 respectively – go on sale in America this week and will be launched in Britain and Europe later.

The coins will always be worth their face value in Australian dollars and, Mr Mackay-Coghill says, the wholesale premium to the world gold price will only be 0.5 per cent – considerably less than the premium above the world gold price applicable to an average one ounce bullion coin. He said: "Our aim is to provide investors with more precious metal for their dollar." Because they are legal tender, they have a guarantee by the government of weight and purity and do not have to be assayed on resale.

Golden record: Mackay-Coghill and the new Nugget

Coin dealers say that the jumbo Australian nugget is the first organic change in gold marketing since the introduction in 1970 of the South African krugerrand and are a completely new way to buy gold.

Bruce Kaplan, the president of Kaplan & Co, a precious metals consultant, said: "It is like the car replacing the horse."

Other gold coins have followed the krugerrand – notably Canada's maple leaf, America's eagle, Australia's nugget, Britain's britannia and Austria's philharmonic.

The popularity of bullion coins has waxed and waned in line with the international gold price down the years. The world gold price stood at a shade above $100 an ounce in 1976, traded at more than $800 an ounce late in 1979 and stood at $368.50 an ounce on Friday.

The World Gold Council says that international bullion coin sales reached 3.29 million ounces (equivalent to 102.5 tons) in 1986, fell to the equivalent of 98.1 tons in 1987 and slipped further to 66.1 tons in 1988.

Bullion coin sales equated to 73.8 tons of gold in 1989 and to 75.1 tons last year.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Mr Kinnock's unconditional surrender

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

On February 28 as Iraq was handing its capitulation to the United Nations, in London another surrender ceremony was taking place. This second event went almost unnoticed. But it was equally momentous for Britain: Neil Kinnock, in what was billed as his definitive statement on economic policy, was conceding Labour's defeat.

Of course that was not quite the way Mr Kinnock put it. Labour's approach to the economy, he said, was built on two sturdy pillars, a "stable macroeconomic framework" and an industrial policy designed to encourage investment. But on the issues bound to dominate a recession-year election — interest rates, unemployment, inflation and growth — what Mr Kinnock had to offer was virtually indistinguishable from John Major's policies.

When Mr Kinnock promises "a stable macroeconomic framework" he is not speaking the language of Labour politics but of Mr Major and Nigel Lawson. He does not mean steady economic growth or full employment, but stable exchange rates, interest rates and taxes, all excluded as instruments of macroeconomic control. Above all, he rules out devaluation and commits himself to the European exchange-rate mechanism with a fervour that would put Norman Lamont to shame.

For the Conservatives this is a godsend, since Labour's reassurances to the financial markets on sterling are just what the Chancellor needs to go on cutting interest rates up to election day. But even apart from this tactical miscalculation, Mr Kinnock's public endorsement of the Tory macroeconomic agenda reeks of political disaster. He may accuse the Tories of "incompetence" but this will leave the voters unimpressed. When Michael Dukakis challenged George Bush with "competence, not ideology", American commentators remembered a remark made by Harry Truman: "If you run a Republican against a Republican, people will elect the Republican every time."

Of course Mr Kinnock claims to offer more than a competent rendering of the Tory macroeconomic script. Far from acknowledging his intellectual debt to Mr Lawson for the idea of putting macroeconomic policy on auto-pilot, he stresses Labour's more positive proposals: an industrial strategy will stimulate investment even in the austere "stable" framework; a "modern system of monetary management" will eliminate the Tories' "addictive dependence" on interest rates to control demand. Labour's heart is in the industrial strategy. Its head is in the new monetary system seen as the key to lower interest rates and therefore electoral appeal.

The essence of the "modern" system is the use of government credit controls. Mr Kinnock correctly rejects the conventional wisdom that such controls would be unworkable. Effective controls exist on retail and mortgage lending in many other economies, including Germany and Japan. He also argues with justice that controls might have been useful two years ago, when unrestrained mortgage lending fuelled an unsustainable consumer boom. As usual, however, Labour is stuck fighting the last battle. Today's problem is recession. Would curbing credit stimulate employment and growth?

Mr Kinnock maintains "interest rates could be made lower now" with credit controls in place. If he believes this, Mr Kinnock must be the only man left in Britain who has not heard that high interest rates are used in the ERM to defend sterling, not to curb credit demand. Would credit controls be an alternative to high interest rates in propping up the pound?

Labour seems to believe this, but recent experience points the other way. Countries that ration credit tend to have weak exchange rates; strong currencies are generally associated with consumer booms. Consider America under Reaganomics, Britain in the Lawson boom and Germany last year.

Such evidence is hard to take for socialists steeped in moralistic traditions. Deep down they believe virtuous investment will surely be rewarded and profligate consumption punished. But their faith only betrays a characteristic misunderstanding of markets. Exchange rates are not rewards or punishments. They are simply prices. Strong currencies coincide with consumer booms because high exchange rates divert resources from investment into consumption. This was, in fact, the best economic argument against joining the ERM last October.

ERM membership offered Labour a golden chance to attack the government's anti-investment bias from a market perspective. Labour could have promised to cut interest rates rapidly, as in America, to the low levels required to maintain employment and revive economic recovery. Sterling could be allowed to find its own level in the markets, like the dollar, and then taken back into the ERM.

A promise like this, as well as promoting investment and growth, would have had enormous electoral appeal — and it could not be trumped by Mr Major. But Mr Kinnock has thrown away his best card, largely it seems because of the distrust of all price mechanisms and markets among his advisers.

Labour plans to rig key prices and iron out the distortions with more government intervention. If the exchange rate makes industry unprofitable, destroys manufacturing jobs and stimulates excessive consumption, so much the better. For Labour this means more industrial plans, wage guidelines, investment and credit controls. The City may be less thrilled.

Fate of foreign securities firms fuels the Tokyo guessing game

Overseas houses in Japan are retrenching in the wake of the Nikkei's decline



Tough times on the Tokyo stock exchange: foreign firms are grappling with a two thirds fall in trading volumes

BUSINESS has seldom been so bad for securities houses in Tokyo. With the Nikkei index down almost 40 per cent from its high in December 1989, the Big Four Japanese brokers, Nomura, Daiwa, Nikko and Yamaichi, expect their March 1991 profits to fall by between 60 and 80 per cent, the steepest decline in 15 years.

Foreign houses, most of which have had a precarious existence since arriving in Tokyo, have suffered more. Last month, the Tokyo branch of Chemical Securities closed, County NatWest's Tokyo office reportedly asked 150 employees to leave, and Jardine Fleming and Morgan Stanley have each let several expatriate analysts and traders go.

It is hardly surprising that foreigners are cutting back in these times of slackened markets. The annual cost base of an average size foreign broking operation in Tokyo with 250 staff is about 7 billion yen (£28 million). Speculation in Kabutocho (Tokyo's equivalent of the City) indicates that at least two foreign houses want to sell their expensive seats on the Tokyo stock exchange, pack up shop and go home.

Even before the Nikkei had really begun to plummet, foreign brokers' profit figures were a sorry sight. In the year to March 1990, seven of the 28 made losses and 17 made less than Y1 billion.

This year, trading volumes are down by two thirds from last year's levels, cutting deeply into fixed commission income on which brokers depend for a large part of their profits. Market analysts estimate that only five foreign houses will register profits at the end of this month.

Richard Greer, branch manager of Baring Securities (Japan) is expecting tough times for at least the rest of the year and a long-term decline in market liquidity.

Barings appears, however, to be refusing to retrench. Mr Greer has not cut staff: indeed he is moving the Barings office to larger premises next month so he can double the size of his trading room to accommodate 200. "If profits are strong in 1992 we will be hiring more staff," he said. Given Barings' performance in February, when it accounted for some 1.4 per cent of total turnover on the TSE, the fourth highest of the 25 foreign exchange members, Mr Greer will probably be hiring next year.

As justification, he cites the strength of the Japanese economy, the size of the stock market and the large number of inbuilt financial market inefficiencies that give specialist niche business to foreigners. "The generally low standard of research in many Japanese houses allows some foreign brokers to get an edge. Strength in the derivatives markets can also bring in good profits to those foreign houses with expertise, because many of the Japanese have not yet caught up in that area. However, that will change very quickly, and competition will be intense."

> 'There is a bomb building up for a lot of foreign houses'

Sixty to seventy per cent of business for the London-based Baring Securities comes from Japan. The company was set up in 1983 with a London staff of eight and an office of seven in Tokyo run by Mr Greer. The basis of its business — selling Japanese equities — has allowed the Tokyo office to grow to employ a staff of 240. Mr Greer predicts that institutional demand for stocks will come back towards the end of the year, but investment criteria may change.

"Investors will not be looking so much for a capital appreciation feast, they will be looking for dividends. Good fundamental research will be crucial to analyse which listed companies can pay dividends and which cannot. In the good old days, research was not so important for many of the players because the stock market always went up. Things have changed, and those houses with poor research capabilities will suffer."

Many foreign houses, according to Mr Greer, have only themselves to blame for their misfortunes. "There is a bomb building up for a lot of foreign houses in Tokyo because they hired too many staff when times were good." Expatriate staff are notoriously costly in Tokyo — the salary and living allowance of a married senior executive with two children comes to about £250,000 a year. Many foreign houses also have too many local staff taken on in the late Eighties in their thirties. Within five years they will be considered too old to continue a sales job, while many are not of the calibre to be trained for senior management.

Corporate protocol in Japan dictates that local staff, accustomed to lifetime employment security, can never be dismissed or have their salaries cut — a single sacking would cut off the flow of Japanese job applicants to foreign firms. Market analysts say most foreign houses already have underperforming Japanese staff that they cannot remove. This only compounds their problems with the dismal performance of the TSE this year and looming troubles outside Japan. A popular guessing game among Japanese brokers is which foreign house is likely to topple next.

JOANNA PITMAN
Tokyo

GILT-EDGED

Yields are dogged by election risk premium

Reading too much into by-election results, especially when the opinion polls show the Conservatives leading Labour nationally by as much as eight percentage points, is dangerous.

Nevertheless, the 25 per cent swing against the Conservatives in the Ribble Valley by-election does underline the vulnerability of support for the government on domestic issues, particularly the poll tax. Although the result may hasten the demise of the poll tax, the unpopularity of this tax could still dominate the local council elections in May. Without a good result in these elections, possibly amounting to a seven-point lead over Labour, Mr Major is unlikely to feel confident of victory in a June 1991 election.

While it may still be unwise to bet against a June election, it does mean that the government is unlikely to set interest rate policy with one particular general election date in mind. The Prime Minister will not want to burn all his boats in favour of June, only to be left with the necessity of a late postponement if the opinion polls are found to be unfavourable.

Furthermore, there is still a long time before the election has to be held. Over the next 12 months the depth of the recession should result in a substantial drop in inflation to 4 per cent on both a headline and an underlying basis.

This would pave the way for a sustained fall in base rates to 10 per cent or lower in a year's time without jeopardising sterling's position within the European exchange-rate mechanism, particularly since German rates should also have turned down by then.

The fall in interest rates is only likely to be interrupted if the government is panicked into cutting rates too quickly. This suggests it may be in the government's longer-term interest not to push too hard to send interest rates lower in the immediate future. A downward path that is a little slower than the market expects in the next six months, but eventually going further, should not harm sterling and would still leave open the possibility of a June or an October election or, more likely in my view, a 1992 election.

There is little evidence of any election jitters permeating the gilts market but the possibility of these should not be underestimated in the months ahead.

Now that Britain is in the ERM, the best way of analysing the gilt market is probably to compare it directly with the yield on German bonds.

German yields should follow a relatively steady downward path from the spring as the German economy slows down and the budget deficit is brought under control.

By 1992, German ten-year yields of about 7½ per cent may be seen — incorporating a real yield of about 4½ per cent and a long-run inflation expectation of about 3 per cent.

A long-term inflation differential of about 2 per cent seems reasonable between Britain and Germany, in which case the British-German bond yield spread could not be expected to fall much below about 200 basis points for any sustainable period. The yield spread of gilts over German bonds has been trading below this level, reflecting the exceptionally adverse activity data in Britain.

Whether there is much of a renewed widening this year depends on the market's assessment of the election risk.

If the market becomes nervous of a possible change of government, to be followed by an increased devaluation risk, yields could temporarily rise, perhaps leading to a spike in the yield spread to around 300 basis points. This would still be less than the average risk premium in the year before the 1987 election and yet the result is likely to be much closer this time.

During 1992, as this election risk premium fades again, there might be a sharp further downward move in ten-year gilt yields into the 9½-10 per cent area, but only if we are right that European yields are heading lower. In the next few months, however, there appear to be many more attractive opportunities in other European bond markets.

DAVID WALTON
Goldman Sachs International

Car industry to advise EC

EUROPEAN motor manufacturers will submit confidential plans this week advising the European Commission how quickly to ease curbs on Japanese car imports after 1992. One of the most painful chapters in the creation of an external trade policy for the Community could close soon if Brussels approves the strategy during a special gathering of its commissioners, also expected this week.

Support from the car industry is crucial as Brussels labours over a delicate deal with Tokyo. The new association of European car manufacturers, grouping the 15 biggest companies except Peugeot, has refused to publish details of its strategy on Japanese imports for fear of upsetting the talks. It is believed the industry wants to set a maximum ceiling of 15 per cent until 1999.

This deadline appears to dovetail with the aims of Martin Bangemann, the EC commissioner for the single European market.

PETER GUILFORD
Brussels

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

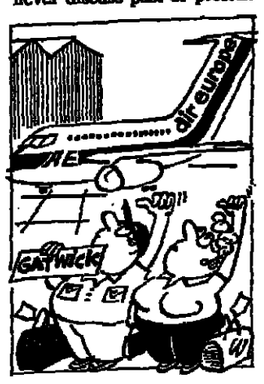
Midland's dusting kit

THE news that Sir Kit McMahon was to step down as chairman and chief executive of Midland Bank seems to have had an inspired effect on one of its more adventurous subsidiaries. Deciding that now is as good a time as any to strike, Forward Asset Finance — a division of Forward Trust, Midland's finance house subsidiary — has spent £20,000 sending a yellow duster to 10,000 potential clients. The duster, which bears the Midland logo with the caption "Make a Clean Start with Forward Asset Finance", is accompanied by a letter urging recipients to "put an extra shine" on their affairs. "It's just a play on the idea of spring-cleaning," says Ken Braddock, market support manager, adding that the company has tried such stunts several times in the past. One earlier mailshot included an aspirin — "to take any headache out of asset financing" — while another was accompanied by a magnifying glass "to take a closer look at the small print". Elsewhere in the explanatory letter that accompanied the duster, FAF talks about bringing "a breath of spring into established arrangements and, even in difficult times, helping you acquire the assets you need for a successful future." Hopefully they have sent several copies of the letter and the duster to Midland's boardroom.

SIGN spotted by a reader in a car showroom in Leeds: "When you see a man opening the car door for his wife, you can bet that one of two things is new — either the car or the wife."

Flight of fancy

THE Roger Levitt saga continues . . . officials who arrived at the Levitt Group's West End offices in December were greeted by row after row of cardboard boxes, filled to the brim with crisp, neatly folded documents. On closer examination, the documents turned out to be personalised Christmas cards — 10,000 of them, in fact — printed at a cost of £20,000 and bearing a photograph of Levitt posing at the top of a rather grand flight of stairs. Drawn in alongside him were a cartoon Father Christmas and three reindeer leaping over the banister in an apparent attempt to get away from the bow-tied financier. The cards, which were never released, have now joined the sacks of Levitt documents still being held by the Serious Fraud Office. But one specimen copy must somehow have leaked out and is now doing the rounds in the Square Mile. Informed City sources claim that the stairs on which Levitt is pictured look suspiciously like those at the RAC Club in Pall Mall, of which Levitt was a member until fate took a hand and he was asked to resign. "We will never discuss past or present members," says an RAC spokesman, with the emphasis, presumably, on the "past".



Word play

THERE is more to running a direct marketing company than many people imagine, as Robin Klein, chief executive of Kleen-E-Ze, knows only too well. For Klein, whose interests include *The Leading Edge* chain of gift shops, has had to go to great lengths to protect his best-selling product, an electronic translator which repeats phrases in five languages. The translator, which has already clocked up sales of £7.5 million since it was launched in May 1990 — and as such may help counter pre-tax losses of £4.3 million, unveiled last week — has a somewhat startling catchword built into its 10,500 word vocabulary in order to trap electronic pirates. "If a similar product appears, all we have to do is check for the word," says Klein, aged 43, who moved to Britain from South Africa in 1976. "It is not a word likely to be used in regular dinner-party conversations." His wife, who lectures in speech therapy at London University, denies any part in the choice of the word, which decorum prevents us from actually repeating here.

Frock exchange

CITY folk tread the boards this month to prove they can dance and act as well as deal. The occasion, a performance of Henry Fielding's *Lock Up Your Daughters*, is the latest offering from the Stock Exchange Dramatic Society. Even the storyline — in which the "daughters" take the upper hand, to the dismay of the men involved — is not too far removed from the world of high finance, where female traders rarely mince their words. Budding actresses in the show, to be staged at King's College Theatre on the Strand from March 19 to 23, include Caroline Bell, a former press officer at the International Stock Exchange, who has a new post in the primary markets division within the exchange. Gerry White, her colleague in the legal department, will lend a hand on such numbers — again not inappropriate to the City — as *Red Wine and a Wench*, *The Gentle Art of Seduction* and *When Does the Ravishing Begin?*

CAROL LEONARD

1991 M.P. No. 81

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF HONG KONG

— HIGH COURT

MISCELLANEOUS PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF

THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION LIMITED

and

IN THE MATTER of the Companies Ordinance

(Chapter 32)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 4th day of March 1991 presented to the Supreme Court of Hong Kong for the sanctioning of a Scheme of Arrangement (the "Scheme") dated the 1st day of February 1991 between The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited and the holders of its shares of HK$2.50 each, which Scheme was approved by shareholders at a meeting convened by direction of the Court and held on 26th February 1991.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is appointed to be heard before the Honourable Mr. Justice Jones at the Supreme Court, No. 38 Queensway, Hong Kong on the 26th day of March 1991 at 9.15 a.m.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any shareholder requiring the same by the under-mentioned Solicitors.

DATED the 11th day of March 1991.

Norton Rose
in association with
Johnson Stokes & Master
17th Floor, Prince's Building
10 Chater Road
Hong Kong

Solicitors for The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

CAPITAL MARKETS

Time could be right to seek value in junk

MARKET wisdom holds that, having suffered at the hands of the record number of credit downgradings in 1989 and 1990, shell-shocked international investors are now interested in buying only AAA-rated bonds.

The continuing inability of most corporates to get paper away suggests this is, to a large extent, the case. But does it make sense? The contrarian's argument that the rating for AAA paper can move in only one direction – down – is largely being ignored but carries weight. Similarly, junk paper, though carrying higher risk, has, by definition, more rating grades above it than below.

The case is particularly appealing for stable issuers, such as RJR Nabisco, now rated at a relatively respectable B-plus. This rating has been reaffirmed by Standard & Poor's, which said: "The potential for an upgrade over the next few years remains."

The same cannot be said of, say, the World Bank or other AAA-rated sovereigns and supra-nationals. With interest rates now on, or soon to be on, a downward trend in most leading economies, there is a good chance that those leveraged buyouts that have survived this far will pull through.

Even so, only very brave or very ill-informed investors could claim that last year's leveraged buyout default experience did not scare them. In America, junk bonds represented about 25 per cent of outstanding rated bonds in 1990 but accounted for about 55 per cent of the rating downgrades that year.

However, the figures are not altogether clear cut. Junk bonds also accounted for 50 per cent of upgrades. Overall, the 4.8 junk downgrades for every upgrade only marginally exceeded the four-to-one ratio for investment grade bonds – and that at the peak of the interest rate cycle, and at or near the trough of the economic activity cycle.

Furthermore, the 31 relegations from investment grade to junk status affected $18.8 billion of debt compared with the $11.3 billion of bonds crossing the investment grade/junk threshold in the other direction.

Another feature of the 1991 market may be the event-risk upgrade. As confidence returns to the economy, well capitalised companies will return to the acquisition trail. Recovering but still highly indebted leveraged buyouts are obvious targets.

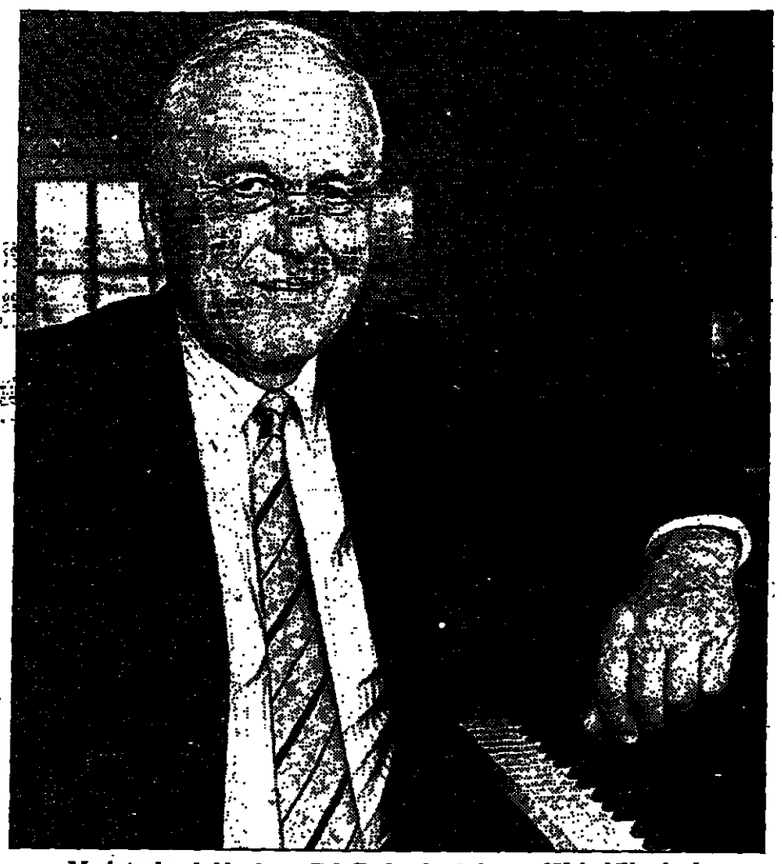
For the higher rated credits, negative event risk in the form of a hostile takeover bid, though not probable, is the more likely outcome.

With the recession still in full swing, the case for junk has yet to be made. Nevertheless, just as in equities, the time to buy is at the lowest point of a bear market. That point may not be far away.

JONATHAN PRYNN

REPORTING THIS WEEK

Reshuffle will knock BTR profits



Music to shareholders' ears: Bob Clarke, the chairman of United Biscuits, is expected to announce a climb in profits from £189 million last year

THE BTR industrial conglomerate, headed by Alan Jackson, the Australian who was recently appointed chief executive, and Sir Owen Green, the chairman, is expected to report a decline in its full-year profits on Wednesday.

The group, which was one of the first to confirm the effects of the recession at the interim stage, will have been affected by a weak Australian dollar and lower volume and margin growth in America and Europe.

Last month's figures from BTR Nylex, the group's 63 per cent-owned Australian subsidiary, showed a 6 per cent fall in earnings, although this was seen as a relatively good performance, taking into account a poor market.

Final pre-tax profits are expected to drop to £980 million, against £1.06 billion last time, according to Ian Hilliker at County NatWest WoodMac. However, Mr Hilliker says that this figure, which includes an expected £70 million provision relating to reorganisation costs, could be lower. Market forecasts range from £940 million to £1.05 billion.

BTR is geared at about 40 per cent and there has been talk in the market of a rights issue, so news is awaited from Mr Jackson, who will be reporting his first set of figures and may also make further provisions.

TODAY

A cautious statement is expected from **Taylor Woodrow**, the property and construction group regarded by many as one of the quality shares in the sector, reflecting the dismal trading conditions affecting the contracting industry.

UBS Phillips & Drew has pencilled in final pre-tax profits of £87 million (£116.9 million). Market forecasts range from £80 million to £90 million.

Interims: Cornwall Parker, MAI, Thormons, TR City of London Trust.

Finals: BBA Group, Botswana RST, British Polythene Industries, British Vita, CIA Group, EFT Group, Fife Indmar, Perkins Foods, Plaxton Group, Second Market Investment Co, Sema Group, Sterling Trust, Taylor Woodrow, TLS Range, USDC Investment Trust.

Economic statistics: Food facts (fourth quarter), credit business (January), retail sales (January – final).

TOMORROW

The recession is expected to squeeze profits at **Glynwed International**, the engineering group. The County NatWest team predicts final pre-tax profits of £71 million (£93.3 million), reflecting a difficult 1990 for the group. Market forecasts range from £70 million to £80 million.

Smith New Court expects **Standard Chartered**, the international banking group, to announce in full-year pre-tax profits of £151 million, against last time's £67 million which was struck after substantial provisions. Market forecasts range from £130 million to £160 million.

Final pre-tax profits at **George Wimpey**, the construction group that is Britain's second biggest housebuilder, are expected to tumble from £134.7 million to £50 million, according to Barclays de Zoete Wedd. Market estimates range from £40 million to £50 million.

News is awaited on the group's current and future prospects, both in Britain and overseas. The group's American housing operations have weakened, with both volumes and margins falling, while Wimpey's American minerals businesses are in the depressed northeastern belt.

Interims: BM Group, Cala, Domestic & General Group, Everest Foods, Logica, Precious Metals Trust, Strong & Fisher (Holdings).

Finals: American Trust, Blagden Industries, Celestion Industries, CMW Group, Cresta Holdings, De Beers Consolidated Mines, De Beers Centenary AG, Glynwed International, Kerry Group, Standard Chartered, Wimpey (George).

Economic statistics: Producer price index numbers (February – provisional), international banking statistics (fourth quarter).

WEDNESDAY

Hillsdown Holdings, the food and furniture group, is expected to show lower profits from the non-foods operations but the food businesses will benefit from a full contribution from Premier Brands.

Smith New Court expects full-year pre-tax profits to advance from £195.6 million to £200 million, although an expanded equity base and a higher tax charge are likely to result in earnings per share falling to 26.4p (29.6p). Market forecasts range from £194 million to £200 million.

Profits from furniture are expected to have been halved in the second half, while profits from property trading may have slumped by more than 70 per cent.

Final net income at **Enterprise Oil** is expected to advance from £116 million to about £150 million, reflecting the benefits of a strong oil price in the second half. A 15 per cent increase is forecast in the dividend to 15p (13p).

Simon Engineering, the equipment, services and manufacturing group, is forecast to report final pre-tax profits of £40 million, compared with £38.6 million last time, according to Pete Deighton at County NatWest. Market forecasts range from £39 million to £45 million.

Interims: EFM Dragon Trust, Gent (SR), Lloyds Chemists, Micklegate Group, Novo-Nordisk AS, Thornton Pan-European.

Finals: BTR, Enterprise Oil, Hillsdown Holdings, North Midland Construction, RPS Group, Simon Engineering, Spandex, T&N, Try Group.

Economic statistics: United Kingdom balance of payments (fourth quarter), capital issues and redemptions (February).

THURSDAY

Argos, Britain's leading catalogue showroom retailer which is headed by Dr Mike Smith, the chief executive, and David Donne, the chairman, thought to have experienced a slowdown in sales in the all-important second half after what was a strong first-half performance.

However, cost controls should have made up for disappointing sales and the group will also benefit from its strong cash position, with interest receivable forecast at about £6 million.

Paul Deacon at Goldman Sachs expects final pre-tax profits at Argos to increase from £68 million to £75 million.

Final pre-tax profits from **Legal & General Group**, the life and general insurer, are forecast to collapse from £142.3 million to £66 million, according to BZW. The group will have been affected by substantial storm damage and subsidence claims. Market forecasts range from £61 million to £70 million.

United Biscuits, Britain's leading biscuits and savoury snacks group which is headed by Bob Clarke, should benefit from a strong performance from the snacks business, although this will be offset by lower profits from the frozen foods side.

Final pre-tax profits are expected to climb from £189 million to £197 million, according to Williams de Broë. Market forecasts range from £195 million to £207 million.

Interims: Green (Ernest) & Partners, Marivate Moore, TSW – Television South West.

Finals: Antofagasta Holdings, Appleyard Group, Argos, Associated British Ports, British-Borneo Petroleum Syndicate, Calor Group, Christies International, Church & Co, Clarke (T), Coats Viyella, Edmond Holdings, Hall Engineering (Holdings), Legal & General Group, Quodrant, Renown, Safe Tilney, Takare, United Biscuits (Holdings), Varity Corp.

Economic statistics: Provisional figures of vehicle production (February), CBI/FT survey of distributive trades (February), labour market statistics: unemployment and unfilled vacancies (February – provisional), average earnings indices (January – provisional).

FRIDAY

Lex Service, the distributor of motor vehicles and motor components, is expected to show a substantial decline in final pre-tax profits, from £55.8 million to about £17 million.

The group will have been affected by a 19 per cent fall in Volvo sales last year. Lex's retail motor division is thought to have made a loss during the second half of the year.

Interims: Sirdar, Walker (Thomas).

Finals: HTV Group, Kinta Kellas Investments, Lex Service.

Economic statistics: Usable steel production (February), gross domestic product (fourth quarter – provisional).

PHILIP PANGALOS

SIMPLY THE BEST

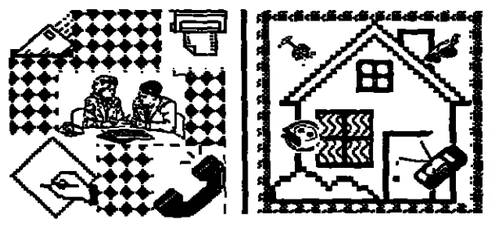
240 FLIGHTS A WEEK
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"Best Airline: Iberia. A turn-up for the books this year. But in all my flights spot on time, tolerable food and lightning baggage handling"
Ivor Herbert: The Mail on Sunday – Aimest Awards

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SMALLER COMPANIES

Capita the USM champion firm goes marching on

CAPITA Group, the management services group that was last week voted USM company of the year, has secured further contracts worth £750,000.

The new orders are for clients including British Gas, Wang Computers, Wiltshire County Council and the London Boroughs of Southwark, and Hammersmith and Fulham. This follows the previous week's news that it had won three new orders worth more than £3.7 million.

Capita, which is headed by Rod Aldridge and derives nearly 90 per cent of its business from the public sector, has successfully diversified from its traditional consultancy business into businesses providing a higher quality income stream.

Capita has significant contracts providing a steady flow of income, much of it due to Telecom Capita, which provides billing services for the poll tax and third party management of computer systems to county councils.

Capita has a five-year facilities management contract to run computing services for Berkshire County Council, worth £19 million. In addition, Capita's seven-year contract with Oxfordshire County Council, worth £28 million, is due to start in the spring.

Capita, which is sitting on £3 million cash, recently saw pre-tax profits surge to £2.51 million (£1.52 million) in the year to end-December.



Winterflood: USM end

● Brian Winterflood of Winterflood Securities, who stepped in as guest speaker at last Thursday's plc awards dinner, said the occasion marked the end of the USM sector as people knew it.

The number of companies listed on the USM has halved since the boom days of the mid-Eighties when up to 835 companies were registered on the Stock Exchange USM roll.

Difficult economic conditions have helped cut the number to little more than 400, although a healthy percentage have proceeded to a full listing.

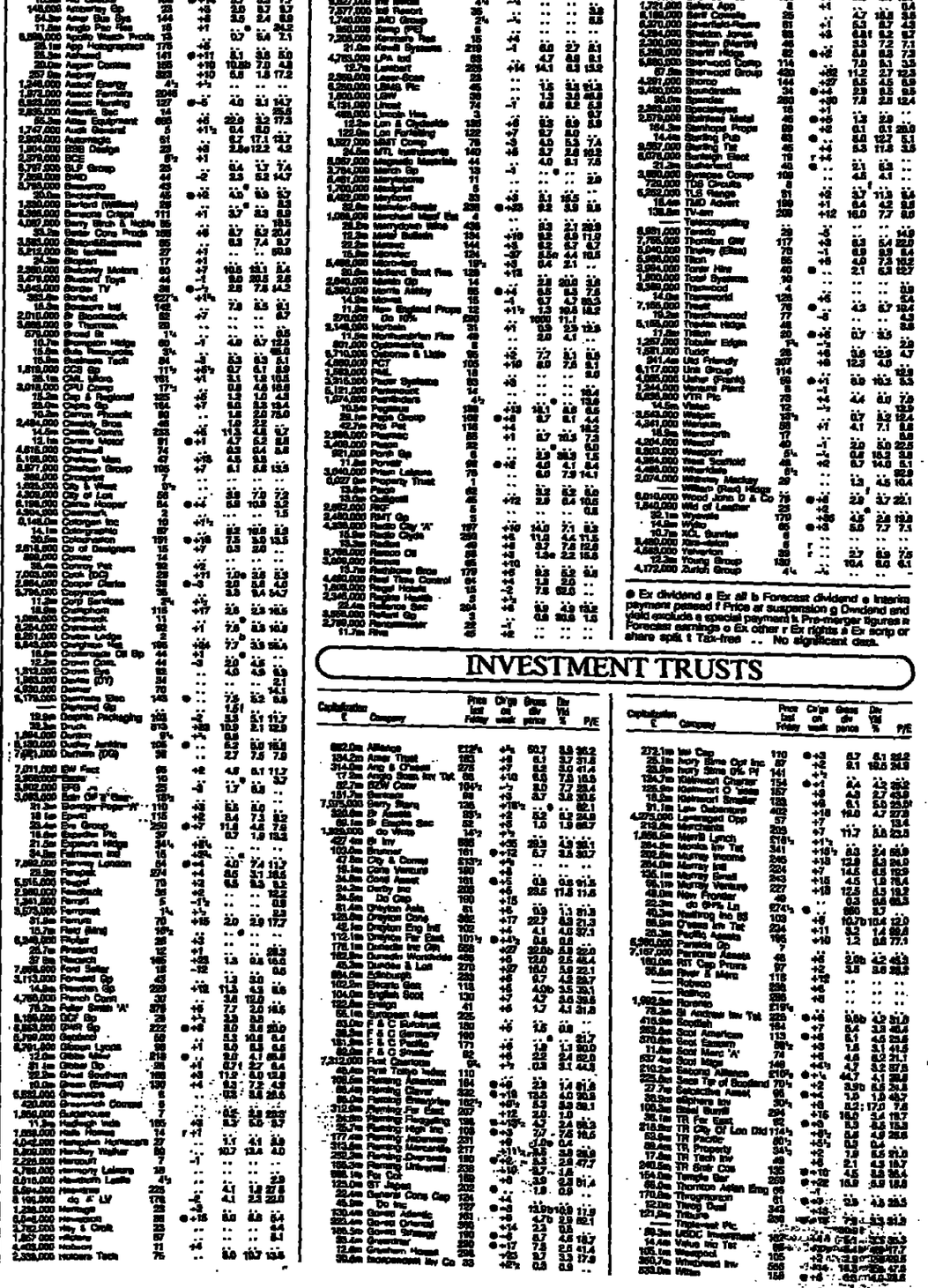
Winterflood Securities, long known as the market-maker in USM stocks, has now decided to group all its shares together regardless of their status. "This, the tenth anniversary of the market, also marks the burial of the USM," said Mr Winterflood.

● In its March review due out this week, Beeson Gregory, the smaller-company specialist broker, suggests that investors are once again looking at smaller companies.

Beeson Gregory says smaller companies have been outperforming the market since mid-February – and this could signal a reversal of the underperformance of the past two years.

PHILIP PANGALOS

UNLISTED SECURITIES



INVESTMENT TRUSTS

HongkongBank

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited
Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability

1990 Second Interim Dividend

For the purpose of calculating the number of new shares to be allotted to shareholders who have elected to receive the 1990 Second Interim Dividend of HK$0.26 per share in scrip, the average of the closing price of the existing shares on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited on each of the five trading days following the closure of the Register of Shareholders on 2 March 1991 was HK$5.72. The number of new shares which such shareholders will receive will be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Number of shares held} \times \frac{\text{HK\$0.26}}{\text{HK\$5.72}}$$

Fractional entitlements will be ignored.

By Order of the Board
R G Barber
Secretary

Hong Kong, 11 March 1991

هكذا من الأصل

TR profits

Portfolio
PLATINUM
From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Prowting	Building,Roads	
2	Umgroup	Industrials S-Z	
3	Mucklow (A&J)	Property	
4	Allied Irish	Banks,Discount	
5	Braithwaite	Industrials A-D	
6	Br Mohair	Textiles	
7	Brentalls	Drapery,Stores	
8	Bunzl	Paper,Print,Adv	
9	RHM	Foods	
10	Hutchns Whampoa	Industrials E-K	
11	Foster (John)	Textiles	
12	Land Sec	Property	
13	ML Hldgs	Industrials L-R	
14	Manders	Building,Roads	
15	Markheath	Property	
16	Stonehill	Industrials S-Z	
17	Lookers	Motors,Aircraft	
18	Crosby James	Building,Roads	
19	Transport Dev	Transport	
20	Porter Chadburn	Industrials L-R	
21	Arlen	Electricals	
22	Petrocon	Oil,Gas	
23	Molins	Industrials L-R	
24	Trinity Intl	Newspapers,Pub	
25	Oxford Instruments	Electricals	
26	Warner	Property	
27	Berkeley Gp	Building,Roads	
28	ADT	Industrials A-D	
29	Ransomes	Industrials L-R	
30	Wilson (Connolly)	Building,Roads	
31	TTP Europe	Transport	
32	Celestion	Industrials A-D	
33	Abbey	Building,Roads	
34	Richardson West	Industrials L-R	
35	Senior Eng	Industrials S-Z	
36	CALA	Building,Roads	
37	Campari	Leisure	
38	Kleen-EZe	Industrials E-K	
39	Hazlewood Foods	Foods	
40	Calor Gp	Oil,Gas	
41	Baynes (Charles)	Industrials A-D	
42	Hewden-Stuart	Building,Roads	
43	Allied Lon	Property	
44	Suter	Industrials S-Z	

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

The weekly Portfolio Platinum prize of £4,000 was shared equally between Hermione Karran, of Castletown, Isle of Man, and Philip Cohen, of Barnes, southwest London.

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock outstanding £	Stock	Price last Friday	Chge on week	Int pay	Gross Red yield

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

395m	Treas	9%	1991		
988m	Fund	5½%	1991-91		
1500m	Treas	9%	1991		
850m	Treas	C10¾	1991		
1545m	Exch	11%	1991		
2195m	Treas	11¾%	1991		
488m	Treas	9%	1992		
1550m	Treas	9%	1992		
1397m	Treas	10%	1992		
1388m	Treas	C10¼%	1992		
1577m	Exch	13¼%	1992		
750m	Treas	13¼%	1992		
1630m	Exch	13½%	1992		
671m	Treas	8%	1992		
1637m	Treas	10%	1993		
1146m	Treas	12¼%	1993		
1148m	Treas	13¼%	1993		
1726m	Treas	9%	1994		
1554m	Treas	8%	1994		
1394m	Treas	10%	1994		
1321m	Exch	12½%	1994		
1194m	Exch	13½%	1994		
888m	Treas	14½%	1994		
170m	Gas	9%	1990-95		
2126m	Exch	10¾%	1995		
2489m	Treas	12%	1995		
918m	Treas	12¾%	1995		

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

724m	Treas	9%	1992-96		
1163m	Conv	10%	1996		
2629m	Treas	13¼%	1996		
2016m	Treas	14%	1996		
2387m	Treas	15½%	1996		
3291m	Treas	9¾%	1997		
3144m	Exch	10¾%	1997		
1482m	Treas	13¼%	1997		
1089m	Exch	15%	1997		
948m	Treas	8¾%	1995-98		
2907m	Exch	9¾%	1998		
8241m	Exch	12%	1998		
1191m	Treas	15¼%	1998		
1210m	Treas	9½%	1998		
1650m	Conv	10¼%	1998		
1272m	Treas	10¼%	1998		
3291m	Exch	12½%	1998		
1189m	Treas	9¾%	2000		
2884m	Exch	13%	2000		
2101m	Treas	13%	2000		
886m	Conv	9¾%	2001		
2986m	Treas	11%	2001		
1139m	Treas	13¾%	1999-01		
726m	Exch	9%	2002		
3918m	Treas	9¾%	2002		
916m	Conv	10%	2003		
1657m	Treas	10%	2003		
1598m	Treas	13½%	2000-03		
2341m	Fund	9½%	1999-04		
1446m	Conv	9½%	2004		
1577m	Treas	11¾%	2003-07		
1735m	Treas	11¾%	2001-04		
2858m	Conv	9½%	2005		
2858m	Treas	12¼%	2003-05		

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1513m	Treas	8%	2002-06		
1284m	Treas	8½%	2007		
3455m	Treas	11¾%	2003-07		
2214m	Treas	9%	2008		
1545m	Treas	13½%	2006-08		
5685m	Treas	9%	2008		
2097m	Conv	9%	2011		
3529m	Treas	5%	2008-12		
5688m	Treas	12%	2013-15		
1195m	Exch	12%	2013-17		

UNDATED

68m	Console	2½%			
116m	Treas	3%			
16m	Treas	3%			
672m	War Ln	3½%			
79m	Conv	3½%			
143m	Console	4%			

INDEX-LINKED

62m	Treas	IL 2%	1992		
468m	Treas	IL 2%	1994		
1705m	Treas	IL 2%	1996		
1283m	Treas	IL2½%	2001		
1081m	Treas	IL2½%	2003		
1645m	Treas	IL 2%	2006		
1199m	Treas	IL2½%	2009		
1763m	Treas	IL2½%	2011		
631m	Treas	IL2½%	2016		
1867m	Treas	IL2½%	2020		
1622m	Treas	IL2½%	2024		
844m	Treas	IL2½%	2024		

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

Capitalisation £	Company	Price last Friday	Chge on week	Gross div pence	Div Yld %	P/E
8,663.0m	Abbey National	372	+16	12.7	4.7	8.4
1,170.2m	Allied Irish	188	+7	13	6.9	11.8
78.6m	Antofagasta (Henry)	41	+1	3.3	8.0	11.2
1,191.8m	Arb Nthn 'Z'	218	+10	..	..	..
3,836.1m	Bancamerica	238	+17	..	..	..
958.4m	Bank of Ireland	238	+17	..	..	..
1,571.2m	Bank Leumi Israel	230	..	..	..	..
24.9m	Bank Lyons UK	210	..	21.3	10.1	8.9
1,082.4m	Bank Of Scotland	350	+7	24.0	6.9	8.9
18.4m	Bank Of Wales	57	..	2.0	3.5	12.8
7,343.0m	Barclays	488	+24	28.2	5.8	10.2
4,829.0m	Benchmark	88	..	10.5	4.7	7.4
58.8m	Brown Shipley	210	..	12.0	5.7	8.8
3,667.0m	Canada	116	..	9.5	7.8	11.5
108.6m	Cater Allen	457	..	41.0	8.9	10.5
74.5m	Close	210	..	4.5	2.0	12.9
——	Chancery					
1,058.3m	Clydesdale	238	+1	10.9	4.5	12.9
2,762.8m	Cmrcl	324	..	..	..	..
95.8m	Coun Bros	222	..	..	..	..
1,287.3m	Commerzbank	201	+3	17.3	8.7	10.9
8,866.9m	Deutsche Bank	333	+13	..	..	..
823.5m	First Nat Fin	210	..	28.3	13.5	15.2
74.4m	GRD	90	..	1.9	2.1	8.3
131.8m	Gerrard Nat	238	..	15.6	6.6	8.3
34.2m	Guinness Mahon	238	..	..	..	..
814.0m	Hambros	238	..	21.1	8.9	12.9
2,521.3m	H Shanghai	238	..	21.1	8.9	12.9
21.7m	Joseph (Leopold)	238	..	21.1	8.9	12.9
22.1m	King & Shaxson	140	..	3.7	2.6	10.6
444.9m	Kleinwort Benson	238	..	21.1	8.9	9.1
4,482.0m	Lloyds	488	..	28.2	5.8	10.1
92.0m	Lon Scot 5%	238	..	21.1	8.9	10.6
1,843.7m	Midland	337	..	12.0	3.6	9.1
2,788.2m	Nat Aust Bk	238	..	..	..	..
5,362.0m	Nat West	338	+18	28.3	7.5	9.5

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Capitalisation and change on week

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin today. Dealings end March 28. §Contango day April 2. Settlement day April 8.
§Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices.

Portfolio
PLATINUM
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DAILY DIVIDEND
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BREWERIES

Capitalisation £	Company	Price last Friday	Chge on week	Gross div pence	Div Yld %	P/E
4,887.7m	Allied-Lyons	488	+14	32.4	4.3	11.3
3,778.7m	Bass	738	..	48.2	4.3	10.2
182.8m	Boddington	288	..	19.2	4.8	12.8
112.7m	Bulmer (H P)	288	..	19.2	4.8	12.8
28.2m	Burtonwood Brew	288	..	19.2	4.8	12.8
88.0m	Clark, Cha'ton	288	..	19.2	4.8	12.8
69.1m	Dowlais (SA)	288	..	19.2	4.8	12.8
1,808.1m	Fosters Brewing Gp	88	..	7.1	4.4	12.8
7,450.0m	Grand Met	738	..	48.2	4.3	11.3
394.0m	Greenall Whit	288	..	19.2	4.8	12.8
177.2m	Greene King	288	..	19.2	4.8	12.8
7,450.0m	Guinness	738	..	48.2	4.3	11.3
58.9m	Hardys & Hansons	288	..	19.2	4.8	12.8
262.8m	Highland Dist	288	..	19.2	4.8	12.8
196.1m	Invergordon Dist	288	..	19.2	4.8	12.8
71.9m	Morrison	288	..	19.2	4.8	12.8
193.7m	Marston Thompson	288	..	19.2	4.8	12.8
47.0m	Moorland	288	..	19.2	4.8	12.8
2,049.7m	Scot & Newcastle	288	..	19.2	4.8	12.8
1,591.8m	Scot & Nfld	288	..	19.2	4.8	12.8
282.7m	Vaux Grp	288	..	19.2	4.8	12.8
2,081.4m	Whitbread 'A'	288	..	19.2	4.8	12.8
222.2m	Do 'B'	288	..	19.2	4.8	12.8
394.8m	Wolverhmpn & D	288	..	19.2	4.8	12.8
12.1m	Young 'A'	288	..	19.2	4.8	12.8

BUILDING, ROADS

Capitalisation £	Company	Price last Friday	Chge on week	Gross div pence	Div Yld %	P/E
28.5m	Abbey	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
365.4m	Amec	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
4,900.0m	Anglo Sec	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
440.8m	Arlington	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
698.0m	Arlwoods	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
1,476.4m	Barratt	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
4,076.0m	Bldg Blue Brick	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
112.5m	Bardon Group	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
160.3m	Barrass Dave	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
148.0m	Beazer PLC	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
69.7m	Bellway	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
5,282.0m	Bellwinch	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
193.8m	Bennett Gp	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
18.0m	Bett Bros	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
24.8m	Bloomsbry	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
1,476.4m	Blue Circle	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
27.0m	Boot (Henry)	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
27.0m	Bowater PLC	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
23.2m	Br Dredging	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
288.6m	Byrne	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
58.7m	CALA	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
753.0m	CRH	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
9,166.0m	Caledonian Roberg	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
30.0m	Carder Gp	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
408.8m	Carlton	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
89.0m	Chudleigh	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
87.1m	Cmnt Nicholson	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
7,571.0m	Crosby James	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
19.1m	Dean & Bdmn	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
67.5m	Dwgtn (Hdg)	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
18.6m	Edmnd Hdgs	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
21.2m	Erith	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
691.0m	Evered	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
4,076.0m	Fairclough Gp	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
26.1m	Galliford	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
1,831.0m	Gibbs & Dandy Grp	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
21.6m	Gleeson (MJ)	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
4,321.0m	Graham Wood	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
10.6m	Harrison Ind	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
178.5m	Hawdon-Stuart	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
167.4m	Heywood Williams	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
180.1m	Higgs & Hill	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
19.8m	Hind Gps	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
5,274.0m	Howard Hdgs	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
248.2m	Ibstock Johnsen	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
15.2m	Ibstock	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
147.0m	Laing (J)	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
23.1m	Lawrence (Walter)	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
88.6m	Lilley	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
109.5m	Lovell (Y.J)	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
51.8m	Manders	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
488.8m	Marley	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
66.8m	Marshalls	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
1,450.0m	Mcalpine (A)	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
165.7m	Mcalpine (Alfred)	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
40.7m	McCarthy & S	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
491.2m	Meyer Int	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
2,218.0m	Mowlem (John)	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
58.8m	Nthn	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
188.8m	Norman Tonks	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
218.8m	Pendennis	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
5,894.0m	Pilkington	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
19.1m	Pochins	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
23.0m	Pochin	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
1,450.0m	Prestige	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
188.8m	Raine Ind	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
1,808.0m	Redland	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
518.1m	Rugby Group	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
15.6m	Shanks & Mcer	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
57.1m	Sheffield Ind	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
17.1m	Smart (J)	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
382.8m	Stanley	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
1,808.8m	Tarmac	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
30.7m	Tay Homes	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
680.5m	Taylor Woodrow	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
143.5m	Tilbury Group	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
254.8m	Trnty Perkins	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
6,084.0m	Try Group	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
7,691.0m	Turriff	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
54.7m	Viscopoint	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
39.8m	Ward Group	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
82.5m	Ward Hldgs	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
85.0m	Wates Bldg	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
8,788.0m	Wimpey	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
288.7m	Wilcon Homes	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
571.8m	Wilson (Connolly)	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
573.4m	Wimpey G	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
5,978.0m	Yrkl	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Capitalisation £	Company	Price last Friday	Chge on week	Gross div pence	Div Yld %	P/E
430.1m	Allied Colloids	188	..	4.3	2.6	10.1
198.8m	Amersham	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
84.0m	Anglo Utd	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
139.2m	BTP	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
5,748.1m	Bayer DM50	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
78.8m	Bdgdn	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
80.1m	Brit Dyes	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
57.2m	Brit Gp	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
61.0m	Cmalig (W)	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
240.0m	Croda	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
87.0m	Ellis & Everard	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
4,886.0m	European Colour	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
87.9m	Evode	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
32.0m	Halstead (James)	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
188.1m	Hickson	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
3,198.5m	Hoechst DM50	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
7,648.5m	Imp Chem Ind	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
1,071.5m	Laporte	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
211.0m	Lilly	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
3,504.5m	Norsk Hydro	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
80.8m	Peterson Zoch	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
74.6m	Do 'A'	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
88.0m	Pnau	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
1,163.5m	Rexnld	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
——	Sutcliffe Speakman	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
195.6m	Tioxide	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
78.1m	Victrex Stronge plc	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
18.7m	Wolverhampton Pnt	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
78.7m	Yorkshire Chem	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
105.8m	Yule Catto	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9

DRAPERY, STORES

Capitalisation £	Company	Price last Friday	Chge on week	Gross div pence	Div Yld %	P/E
142.7m	Alexon	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
78.2m	Amber Day	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
844.6m	Argos Plc	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
184.8m	Ashley (Laura)	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
20.1m	Austin Reed	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
67.8m	Bernard (James) 'A'	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
77.0m	Bonsack	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
488.8m	Body Shop	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
——	Bremner	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
41.8m	Brown & Jackson	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
188.8m	Brown (S)	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
838.4m	Burton	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
15.7m	Cameo 'A'	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
11.8m	Combe Fld	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
35.0m	Combe	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
778.8m	Dixons	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
58.4m	Dunn Fernsbarm	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
31.1m	DAKS Simpson 'A'	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
17.0m	Dewhirst (J)	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
284.0m	Empire Stores	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
570.1m	Etam	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
111.4m	Fine Art Dev	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
9,000.0m	Fine Earth Tiles	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
5,488.0m	Forminster	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
27.4m	Gent SR	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
8,380.0m	Goldsmiths Group	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
2,837.4m	Gus	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
——	Do 'A'	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
28.0m	Harrisons	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
15.6m	Horne Fin	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
88.8m	Hogg Robinson plc	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
8,388.0m	Hollis	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
5,720.0m	House Of Lerose	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
16.3m	Jacques Vert	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
1,868.7m	Kingfisher	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
28.1m	Ladies Wear Gp	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
48.8m	Liberty	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
6,888.0m	Marks & Spencer	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
188.8m	Mascley (John)	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
21.6m	Moss Bros	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
118.8m	Next	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
14.6m	Oliver (B)	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
13.4m	Do 'A'	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
172.4m	Panos	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
62.8m	Pk Hdgs	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
487.8m	Parsons Group	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
11.1m	S & U Stores	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
85.2m	Scholl	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
1,415.0m	Sears	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
617.1m	Smith WH 'A'	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
488.8m	Stonehouse	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
111.1m	T & S Stores	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
11.9m	The Rack	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
78.0m	Time Products	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
34.2m	Vivas	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
88.0m	Wade	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
5,788.0m	Welling Office	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9

ELECTRICALS

Capitalisation £	Company	Price last Friday	Chge on week	Gross div pence	Div Yld %	P/E
41.8m	AB Elect	147	..	21.3	14.5	8.2
104.4m	ACT Group	111	..	16.0	14.4	8.2
28.1m	Admiral	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
30.8m	Alba	88	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
8,194.0m	Alpharetic	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
487.8m	Amstrad	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
104.4m	ACT Group	111	..	16.0	14.4	8.2
10.6m	Arlec	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
10.6m	Astec	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
284.0m	Auto Sec	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
18.5m	Brake Hyster	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
17.7m	Bremnit & Fountain	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
1,185.5m	BICC	418	..	28.7	6.9	10.4
44.2m	Bltr	214	..	11.0	4.5	8.2
358.4m	Boothorpe	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
20,301.0m	Br Telecom	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
2,988.0m	Burgin (AF) 'A'	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
8,714.0m	Cable Wireless	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9

ELECTRICITY

Capitalisation £	Company	Price last Friday	Chge on week	Gross div pence	Div Yld %	P/E
77.5m	Cambridge Elec	181	+10	13.0	7.7	13.5
57.8m	Clarvin	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
17.5m	Computer People	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
76.9m	Dley Elect	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
888.9m	Delta	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
48.4m	Domino	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
88.5m	Dowding & Mills	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
4,008.0m	EMC	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
884.9m	Electronic Rentals	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
8,114.0m	Elec Data Process	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
9,287.0m	Electrocomponents	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
48.8m	Electrocomp House	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
148.7m	Emess	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
172.8m	Emplyms	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
288.2m	FKI	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
384.7m	Farnell Elect	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
149.7m	Ferranti	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
1,941.0m	Filtronic Hldgs	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
12.1m	First Intl	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
6,270.0m	Fortnum & Mason	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
4,788.0m	Forward Tech	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
88.0m	GEC	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
87.0m	Gerrard Group	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
39.7m	Hartwell Hldgs	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
5,707.0m	Hawtin	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
9,284.0m	Kode	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
18.5m	Lec Refrigeration	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
180.8m	Lgtrn	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
167.5m	Life Sciences	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
18.8m	Logica	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
5,697.0m	Lucas Ind	288	..	19.2	4.8	7.9
18.8m	Lumonics	288	..

French with fewer tears and a future

More pupils are now learning the native tongues of their European neighbours. Hugh Thompson sums up the mood and explains how teaching has changed.

The number of students taking A-levels in French, German and Spanish has risen by a third in three years. Record numbers are joining sixth-form language classes, suggesting that at last the British educational system has got the language habit.

Dr Christine Wilding, who chairs the Association for Language Teaching (ALT), says: "There is a considerable weight of positive public opinion about learning languages. The government's efforts in pushing the single European market have helped. The way schools teach languages and the flexibility in taking A-levels have also helped. Languages are seen as relevant to a career and are taught in a relevant way." The key to this increased popularity is the more conversational style of GCSE language courses. The accent in O-levels was once on grammar and set translations, but the GCSE's emphasis today is related more to learning how to buy a train ticket, book a hotel or apply for a job. This contemporary feel has been underlined by many schools buying satellite television so that students can see news and other broadcasts in foreign languages.

Doreen Covie, a lecturer at Nottingham university's school of education, who chairs the French committee of the ALT, says: "The topic-related way of teaching appeals to so many more. The accent is on understanding the meaning of languages, not just manipulating grammar and words. There is also an awareness of the economic importance of Europe and, at last, a real decline in the myth that because English is the world language anything else is unnecessary. Business now accepts that to sell in certain markets you must speak the relevant language. Schools are now much closer to business."

At Kendrick selective girls' school in Reading, Berkshire, the numbers taking A-level French have gone from nine to 25, and German from four to 18. Sian Moore, the head of languages, says: "A lot of this popularity has come because we have changed examination boards, away from the more literature-based London syllabus, to the more topic-based Associated Examining Board syllabus. The GCSE course is giving more students the confidence to go on to A-level. It was once unheard of to take two sciences and a language, but now it is encouraged. Universities offering every kind of course from law to engineering with a language – which involves spending a year in a foreign country – have added to A-level language interest. Most of all, the students here realise that a language qualification is useful, if not vital, for furthering their careers."

'Most of all, the students realise that a language qualification is useful, if not vital, for furthering their careers'

A similar story is told at the Holy Cross sixth-form college in Bury, Greater Manchester, where in a year the size of the lower sixth in French has gone from 24 to 58 and the numbers taking German from seven to 18. David Gardner, the head of languages, says: "We have a part-time assistant and the A-level students get a real kick out of understanding what he is saying and making themselves understood. By making languages live, we have made them popular."

SIMON TOWNSLEY



Living the language: pupils run a mock-up French shop in school

A survey by the Royal Mail showed that 84 per cent of British undergraduates would like to work abroad.

There is a note of caution, however. In 1983 the numbers taking French A-levels reached an all-time high of 27,103, compared with fewer than 26,000 at present. After 1983 came the decline, attributable to falling interest as much as falling numbers. The hope this time is that the switch from O-levels to GCSE, the more flexible approach by schools and sixth-form colleges and strong demand from business will prevent the momentum being lost.

Dr Wilding says: "Languages used to be seen as boring and irrelevant. Now they are neither. The attitude in schools is illustrated by my daughter, who in 1983 wanted to take biology, chemistry and French A-levels at her grammar school.

"They told her it was impossible and she had to go to a comprehensive to do them. She has since graduated with double honours from university, and that grammar school has 'liberated' the A-level timetable so that such mixtures of subjects are possible."

Voluntary groups feel the axe of recession

Training for thousands will end if volunteer groups are cut

Independent and dispersed, voluntary training organisations have always been more difficult to categorise than schools or further education colleges. They work alongside local authorities rather than as a part of them and have usually been funded by central government, which puts them in an uneasy position in relation to mainstream education.

None the less, they deal with an estimated 150,000 participants a year, more than half of whom have "special needs" of some kind. The sector has grown to cater for those with whom the school system has often not succeeded, such as ex-offenders, people with learning difficulties and single parents, and tries to bridge the gap between unemployment and employment.

Despite its diversity, and its specialised remit, the voluntary sector is measured by the same sort of results as further education colleges and commercial training organisations.

The number and level of qualifications gained, linked to the cost of gaining those qualifications, often determine contracts given by the new Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs). This has caused difficulties unique to this part of the training market.

In the past, the voluntary sector came under the aegis of the Training Agency. Special needs providers were recognised through their performance and budgets as delivering a more cost-intensive provision. The trainees' special problems require staff experienced at working with a particular group, as well as intensive staff training programmes.

Most of the training is delivered through the Youth Training (YT) and Employment Training (ET) programmes. Yet ET, designed for unemployed people, has had a low take-up. ET has been underfunded from the start, and its places have been progressively cut by the employment department from 300,000 in 1988 to a projected 130,000 for 1991-2.

Recession has led to a rapid rise in unemployment. At the same time, early negotiations with TECs are proving that many of these bodies, dominated by the need to justify financial investment by very visible qualifications, are cutting special-needs provision as being too expensive.



Some voluntary organisations have not been offered contracts and will close. Where they have been offered contracts, the unit cost per trainee in general has fallen, by up to 50 per cent.

What does this mean in practice? In north Wales, a 60-place unit offering training in clerical skills and information technology has been cut. Some trainees have learning difficulties and some have just arrived in Britain and can speak little English.

The unit provided foundation training to help to resolve literacy, numeracy, family and personal problems, as well as vocational training. Trainees achieved a wide range of qualifications.

Instructing staff were well-qualified. The local assessor praised the unit highly, saying its provision and results far exceeded those of the local technological college. This was a well-run, effective unit with better developed training and personal procedures than many private or local authority providers. The reason the local TEC gave for cutting the unit was lack of money.

Discussions over other training programmes are continuing, but with little optimism.

What, then, will happen to training expertise, developed and practised in the voluntary sector, which has received public money for the past decade? The quality providers are disappearing as well as the less able providers. What will happen to the innovative curriculum, the trainers' skills and the direct link to employment that these organisations gave special-needs trainees? What is being done to ensure that the trainees continue to get the type of training they need? Will further education colleges have the money to deliver it, or are local authorities going to develop their own provision? If they do, will it carry the same sort of experience and appeal to the trainees as the voluntary sector now offers?

JANE STRAW

● *The author is a consultant for the National Council of Voluntary Organisations.*

The revision decision

Do Easter courses represent value?

A price tag of up to £400 is not deterring parents from enrolling GCSE and A-level students on Easter revision courses in increasing numbers. Most of the students come from independent schools, so one last outlay may seem worthwhile if it means the difference between success and failure.

The difficulty for parents is how to assess whether courses give value for money. Will a course of between three days and a week really make the difference?

Neil Cownden, the Easter revision course director at Davies's college, London, says: "Most students who go on these courses are almost in the no-hoper category. They place their trust in the college to try to scrape through."

Some colleges, such as the Abbey Tutorial college, of London and Manchester, specialising in mathematics and sciences at A-level, claim impressive success rates. Four out of five students on short courses achieve a C grade or better after a spell of revision.

A survey by Mr Cownden showed standards varied. He advises parents to look at the course lengths and the quality of staff.

Dr Gerard Connolly, principal of Surrey College, an independent sixth-form college that takes more than 100 students on Easter revision courses, says that the most reputable colleges will have external approval, probably from the British Accreditation Council.

The average hourly rate is now about £10 an hour for individual tuition, seminars and tests. About 30 colleges will run Easter courses.

JOHN O'LEARY

LECTURESHIPS

ASTON BUSINESS SCHOOL

As one of the largest in the UK, Aston Business School (ABS) enjoys a high reputation for innovative teaching and research, with an international orientation.

Aston University has invested heavily in its Information Technology infrastructure and is well set to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 1990's and beyond, as a technological university.

PROFESSORSHIP/READERSHIP
LECTURESHIPS/TEACHING FELLOWSHIPS
IN MARKETING

Rapid expansion of the Marketing Group at Aston has created a number of new positions. The group consists of one Professor, two Senior Lecturers, four Lecturers and a Teaching Fellow. New positions are available for a further Professorial appointment and/or Readership, together with two Lectureships and/or Teaching Fellowships. Consideration will be given to the transfer of existing research groups to Aston.

The research emphasis of the Marketing Group within the Business School is in the area of International Marketing Strategy, exploiting the many links of the School with other university business schools in Europe, North America and Australasia. A strong research orientation is essential for the new appointments.

Applications for the above posts are invited from suitably-qualified candidates with a specialisation in any area of marketing. For the senior posts, a proven research record is essential. For the lectureships applications will be welcome from recent graduates with good degree qualifications or from doctoral students in marketing close to completion of their theses. Excellent opportunities are provided by the positions for research in marketing, consultancy and collaboration with industry. For informal discussions contact Professor Graham Hooley, Professor of Marketing and Head of the Corporate Management Division at the Business School.

Lecturer and Teaching Fellow appointments may be made for an initial three-year term, with possibility of renewal or transfer to a continuing appointment. Continuing appointments are available at the Professor/Reader level for applicants with proven research records.

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from: Personnel Officer (Academic Staff) quoting Reference Number 9105.2, Aston University, Aston Triangle, Birmingham B4 7ET (021-359 0870 24-hour answerphone; 021-359 6470 Fax). Closing date: 5th April, 1991.

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

King's College London
University of London
School of Law
Appointment of Lecturers in the School of Law
The School of Law at King's College London has up to four vacancies for the position of Lecturer. The School has particular teaching needs in the Core Subjects.
The appointments will be on the Lecturer Grade A scale (£13,853-£18,522 including London Allowance). Reimbursement of relocation costs will be considered.
Application forms and further particulars of the post may be obtained from Miss Grace Alleyne on 071 873 2273. Completed applications, including a full CV and the names and addresses of 3 referees, should be sent to Miss Grace Alleyne, School of Law, King's College, London, Strand, WC2R 2LS. Please quote reference AL/001 with your enquiry and application.
This is a re-advertisement.
The closing date for receipt of applications is 5 April 1991.

University of London: The London School of Economics and Political Science
LECTURESHIP IN QUANTITATIVE METHODS
Department of Statistical and Mathematical Sciences & Interdisciplinary Institute of Management.
Applications are invited for the above post for appointment from 1 October 1991. The appointment will be a joint one between the Department of Statistical and Mathematical Sciences and the newly established Interdisciplinary Institute of Management.
The post arises because of the need to develop courses in mathematics and statistics for the School's new degree in Management. The post is suitable for candidates with an interest in the use of quantitative methods for management, and experience in the application of these methods will be an advantage. Applications from those who have not previously engaged in research related to management will also be welcome.
Candidates should have a degree in mathematics, statistics, operational research, econometrics or any other quantitative subject.
Salary will be at an appropriate point of the Lecturer Grade A scale (£12086 to £16755) or Lecturer Grade B scale (£17455 to £22311) plus £1767 London Allowance a year. In assessing starting salary consideration will be given to qualifications, age and experience.
Application forms and further particulars are available, on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope, from the Staffing Officer, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE.
Closing date for applications: 19 April 1991.

CONTINUED ON FACING PAGE

Batting for a new British spirit

The sports minister tells John O'Leary why he believes it is vital to have a sports revival in our schools

Robert Atkins, the minister for sport, seems surprised to find himself at the education department. He says jovially that he is still getting used to the long words, not to mention his new responsibilities for health and sex education.

The first minister for sport, Quintin Hogg, was based at the department in 1962, but all the recent holders of what has often turned out to be a poisoned chalice have been at the environment department. Mr Atkins held the portfolio there before last year's Tory leadership election. His main contact with the education department was to send stiff letters on the sale of playing fields.

The change of base for Mr Atkins shows John Major's determination to build national sporting prowess from the bottom. The two are old friends, sharing a similar political upbringing on the opposition groups of London councils, and they discussed the move when Mr Major was still at the Treasury.

The idea is to lay the foundations for a lasting revival of interest, which will be reflected later at the highest level of sport. Mr Atkins says: "If we are to address the problems, we must start with education. School sport is fundamental to everything in sport."

At school Mr Atkins was a bowler and cross-country runner. He says examinations were an inconvenient interruption to the cricket season. He is horrified that his 12-year-old son's school year ends in June, thus curtailing his cricket.

Cricket has a special place in the minister's affections, even if a signed photograph of Bill Beaumont playing rugby for England adorns his office wall. Mr Atkins admits his new-year trip to Australia was as much for pleasure as for business, even if the Test match results were not to his liking.

He is a member of every cricket club in his Lancashire constituency, and presents the Robert Atkins trophy for a local competition, which has had considerable success in attracting schools back into the game. Sponsors have provided the necessary kit, and international players have made appearances at the competition, which drew 70 entries last year.

MALCOLM CROFT



Knowing the score: "I regard sport as a crucial element of school life," Robert Atkins says

The venture is something of a model for Mr Atkins's vision of sporting regeneration: a healthy dose of private enterprise helping to revive interest at an early age, with star performers helping to bring out the best in promising youngsters. A pilot national coaching scheme is to be run on similar lines, while the involvement of sports clubs is a crucial part of his plans to encourage sport among schoolchildren.

The immediate task for Mr Atkins is to produce the government's review of all aspects of sport by the summer. He hopes the Budget will bring in new tax breaks and a national lottery, but the review may make or break his reputation in office. School sport is certain to feature strongly, as is the position of the minister himself.

At present, his powers are limited by the virtual absence of a budget, but he is at least able to influence the national curriculum in physical education. "We have to overcome the idea that the physical education teacher has a lower status because he turns out in a track suit and has sweaty armpits. I regard it not as a subject, but one of the three crucial elements of school life, with the academic and the pastoral sides."

Mr Atkins accepts that aerobics, gymnastics and "even dance" are acceptable forms of physical education for those without an appetite for team games. "Those who want to do team sport must have the facilities, but our overall objective is to keep youngsters fit," he says.

The move to the education department has given him experience of the difficulties of maintaining those facilities, whether for team sports or to fulfil his advisers' desire to make swimming lessons universally available. He rules out the swimming entitlement only for practical reasons, while the difficulties of providing suitable playing fields and after-hours supervision are no longer underestimated.

The hopes Mr Atkins has for overcoming at least some of these difficulties lie partly with parental pressure. He expects local management of schools to encourage greater parental involvement in sporting activity and he adds: "Most people in this country want good sporting results as well as good results in the classroom."

The principle also holds good for student sport, which he sees as having suffered from an overemphasis on academic achievement in the selection of undergraduates. He praises Durham and Exeter universities for reviving sporting excellence as a valid entrance criterion and a worthy student aim.

His interest in student sport does not extend to attending this summer's World Student Games in Sheffield, however. Decisions on whether to put more government money into the troubled games have been left with the environment department. Mr Atkins criticises the city's organisation of the event, and gives prior engagements at the British Grand Prix and a one-day cricket final as his reason for missing the 12 days of the games.

By then, the review of sport will have been published and school sport will have assumed an even larger part of the ministerial workload. The decline that has taken place in schools has left Mr Atkins with no illusions about the task he faces. "It is like turning the QE2 around in two minutes," he says. "It cannot be done but you have to make a start."

NOTICEBOARD

Pupils on poison trail

THE results of a nationwide project that turned children into scientific researchers are being released this week. The project, involving 800 primary and secondary schools, will show the first national picture of the amount of radon present in drinking water. The pupils, under the guidance of Dr Denis Henshaw, of Bristol university, have been taking measurements using a radon-detecting strip of plastic, a yoghurt pot and a coffee tin. After six days, they are able to see the level of natural radiation on the strip.

None of the drinking water analysed is considered a health risk, but Devon, Cornwall and the West Midlands all have higher than average readings. The lowest were found by schools in Co Londonderry, Avon, Strathclyde, Tayside and South Glamorgan.

Portway secondary school in Bristol first developed radon projects for pupils. Geoff Camplin, the head of science, who has worked closely with Dr Henshaw on devising the survey, has previously encouraged pupils to measure radon in buildings using a similar kit.

A degree under

COUNCILLORS have thrown out plans for a private university for the Highlands. Dr Samir Mattar, the Palestine-born developer, proposed a £12 million university on a 170-acre site near the housing, hotel and golf complex he is developing outside Inverness. The regional council has its own scheme for a university and has commissioned a study to consider several plans. The options include upgrading existing technical colleges at Inverness and Thurso, and the Gaelic college in Skye, or the creation of a new "out-station" campus for an existing university.

Class on screen

A SCHOOL in Southampton is to become the first to introduce clocking-on for pupils. The aim is to reduce truancy and save teachers' time by cutting out daily roll calls. David Caswell, the headmaster of St George Roman Catholic school, for pupils aged 11 to 16, admits to initially considering a tagging system. "We have a responsibility for keeping track of our pupils," he says. "There was a time when we could rely on them turning up for school in the morning and staying for the rest of the day. That is not the case any more." The £10,000 computerised system will be monitored at the school office. "The print-outs will tell us who is away and for how long. It could show that some pupils fight shy of particular lessons or teachers," Mr Caswell adds.

Less talking

THE Gulf War ended too late to prevent a decline in the number of teams in the World Debating and Public Speaking Championships, which began yesterday at Taunton School, Somerset. Fears of terrorism kept several teams away, but seven countries are still represented. The school won the right to host the championships by finishing second overall last year.

Act of kindness



JIMMY Logan (above), the entertainer, will present his theatre memorabilia collection to Glasgow university tomorrow. The 500 items, including postcards of Scotish seaside entertainers, presentation silverware and Harry Lauder's mother's kettle, will be part of the university's Scottish Theatre Archive.

Outside job

PRISONERS are attending a sixth-form college to help students with their studies and improve community ties with Winchester prison. About a dozen inmates approaching the end of their sentences catch a train once a week to attend Queen Mary's sixth-form college in Basingstoke, Hampshire. All parents of students who would come into contact with the prisoners are notified. None has objected.

JOHN O'LEARY

EDUCATIONAL

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

King's College London
University of London

The City Solicitor's Educational Trust and the School of Law, King's College London

Lecturer in Jurisprudence and Legal Reasoning

The School of Law at King's College London has recently received an award from the City Solicitor's Educational Trust, enabling the School to offer an appointment of a Lectureship in Jurisprudence and Legal Reasoning.

Jurisprudence and Legal Reasoning are taught as core subjects in the LLB degree, and the Lecturer will be expected to take a leading role in the development of these courses.

The appointment will be for 4 years in the first instance, on the Lecturer Grade A scale (£13,853 - £18,522 including London Allowance). Reimbursement of relocation costs will be considered.

Application forms and further particulars of the post may be obtained from Miss Grace Alleyne on 071 873 2273. Completed applications, including a full CV and the names and addresses of 3 referees, should be sent to Miss Grace Alleyne, School of Law, King's College London, Strand, WC2R 2LS. Please quote reference AL/002 with your enquiry and application.

This is a re-advertisement.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 5 April 1991.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
UNIVERSITY DENTAL HOSPITAL
SENIOR LECTURER IN DENTAL PRACTICE
DEPARTMENT OF RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY

Applications are invited from dental practitioners with a dental qualification registerable in the United Kingdom for this new post. The principal duties of this post will be concerned with undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, mainly in relation to comprehensive patient care. The successful applicant will be required to pursue, promote and supervise research for which excellent facilities exist. Candidates must possess a higher university degree and a postgraduate clinical qualification. Honorary NHS Consultant status in Dental Surgery will, where appropriate, be recommended to the local Health Authority. The post is tenable immediately and appointment will be made on the scale for clinical senior lecturers (£25,805 - £36,420 or £32,520 - £1,980 p.a. with NHS Consultant status). Interested persons are encouraged to contact Professor N.H.F. Wilson, Department of Restorative Dentistry, University Dental Hospital of Manchester, Higher Cambridge Street, Manchester M15 6FH (Tel. 061 275 6660) in the first instance. Application forms (returnable by 13th April 1991) and further particulars from the Registrar (Academic Staffing Office), the University, Manchester M13 9PL. Quote ref. 72/91. The University is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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The salary for this challenging and innovative post will be on a scale extending to £22,311 (under review) with the possibility of higher placement for an experienced and qualified appointee.
Further particulars and application forms are obtainable from the Personnel Officer, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD. Telephone no. (0602) 484848, extension 3355. Closing date: 28 March. Ref No 1402.

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Alan D Holmes Esq., Woodard Schools (Southern Division) Ltd., Nile House, PO Box 1034, Nile Street, Brighton BN1 1JB
(Telephone: 0273 24411)
from whom further details may be obtained.

POSTS

The Court of Governors of
MILL HILL SCHOOL
is to appoint a
HEAD
to succeed Mr Alastair Graham who is to retire in August 1992. Mr Graham is a member of the Headmasters' Conference.

The School has just under 600 pupils with girls in the sixth form only. It is, and will remain, mixed day and boarding in approximately equal parts.

It is situated in 140 acres of one of the most attractive parts of the North-West London Green Belt.

The Court is looking for a Head whose career to date demonstrates beyond doubt the academic and managerial skills necessary for the School to be led successfully, and in every aspect of its working, through the 1990's and beyond. Commitment to boarding is essential.

Though the successful candidate will probably already have experience as a Head, the Court will give full consideration to other applicants including those from outside the teaching profession. The preferred age is between forty and fifty.

The salary will be £60,000 pa. plus other benefits.

For further information apply to:
The Secretary to the Court of Governors,
P M Woodroffe Esq.,
York House, 199, Westminster Bridge Road,
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For full Job Description and further details please contact:
Rod Findlay, General Secretary, Union of UEA Students, University of East Anglia, Norwich, NR4 7TJ
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CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

EDUCATIONAL

POSTS

Leicester University

Centre for Mass Communication Research

PROFESSOR OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS AND DIRECTOR OF CENTRE

Following the retirement of Professor J. D. Halloran, applications are invited for the post of Professor of Mass Communications and Director of the Centre for Mass Communication Research tenable from 1 October 1991. The Centre has a strong international reputation for both postgraduate research and teaching. Undergraduate courses are being developed in collaboration with other Departments in the Faculty of Social Sciences. The successful candidate will be expected to provide academic leadership, to demonstrate an ability to generate research projects, and to encourage innovative teaching programmes. Applicants with interests in any field of Mass Communications are encouraged to apply.

Salary will be negotiated within the Professorial Range. Current minimum £27,013 (under review).

Further particulars may be obtained from the Staffing Office (Academic Appointments), University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH, telephone (0533) 522439. U.K. candidates should submit 14 copies of their application. (Overseas candidates may submit one copy).
The University Fax Number is (0533) 522200.

Closing date for applications: 30 April 1991.

Principal

CHETHAM'S SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Applications are invited for this appointment which arises in September 1992 on the retirement of John Vallins OBE.

Chetham's, located in the centre of Manchester, is the UK's largest specialist School of Music and has achieved a worldwide reputation for musical excellence. At the same time it provides a broad academic education of high quality to its 265 pupils, mostly aged between 11 and 18, almost all boarders and of whom presently two thirds are girls.

Candidates, men or women, will need to have at least an informed and sensitive awareness of music, but they must primarily be educationalists of proven management ability, imagination and vision.

Salary, benefits and terms of this appointment fully reflect its importance and challenge.

Further information from and applications to the Chairman of the School Committee, c/o Ravenscroft & Partners Limited, St Andrew's Chambers, 20 Albert Square, Manchester M2 5PE. Telephone 061-832 9875.

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON-TYNE

Duke of Northumberland Chair of Rural Economy

Applications are invited for the newly established Duke of Northumberland CHAIR OF RURAL ECONOMY in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Food Marketing. The endowment of this Chair follows a major appeal in memory of the tenth Duke of Northumberland, the former Chancellor of the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne. The appeal fund will also endow associated research posts.

The appointee to the Chair will have a strong research record relating to the study of the European rural economy which is interpreted to embrace all aspects of the development of rural areas, including their integration into the rest of the economy. The appointee will be the Director of the Centre for Rural Economy which will act as a focus for the development of research and teaching in this subject area.

Salary will be at an appropriate point in the Professorial range.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, 6 Kensington Terrace, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 7RU, with whom applications, giving the names of three referees, should be lodged not later than 5 April 1991.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

DIRECTOR of the SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES and PRESIDENT of TEMPLETON COLLEGE

Building on twenty-five years of management teaching the University has decided on a major initiative, including a new MBA programme to create a world-class School of Management Studies. The first Director of the School will hold the post jointly with the Presidency of Templeton College, which is the focus of present teaching and research in management studies.

This is an exceptionally challenging position and the total remuneration for the combined appointment will reflect its scope and importance.

For further particulars please contact:

The Registrar, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JD (telephone number (0865) 270783; fax. number (0865) 270708).

Applications (three copies), naming three referees, should be received by 29 April 1991

The University is an Equal Opportunity Employer

CADEERS SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS CAREERS SERVICE

CAREERS ADVISERS (2 posts)

Vacancies for two careers advisers have arisen following the recent appointment of two members of the current advisory staff as, respectively, Director of the Careers Service at the University of Birmingham and Director of the Leeds University Enterprise Unit. The successful candidates will be asked to join the Service from 1 July 1991, or as soon as possible thereafter. One of the posts is for a fixed term of five years in the first instance.

Applications are invited from graduates of any discipline with or without formal careers guidance qualifications, for one of the posts applicants with experience in a technological field would be preferred, although possession of a degree in science or engineering is not necessary. Keen interest in careers counselling in higher education is required, together with employment experience which provides an appropriate foundation for careers guidance work with undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Salary will be on either Grade 2 (£15,038-£18,165) or Grade 3 (£18,888-£22,311) for Administrative Staff, according to qualifications and relevant experience.

Potential applicants may make informal enquiries with the Director of the Careers Service, Dr R M Siddall, if they wish. Telephone (0532) 335305.

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from and completed applications forwarded to the Registrar, The University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT (tel 0532 333969 - direct line), quoting reference no 119/3.

Closing date for applications 12 April 1991.

The University of Leeds is an equal opportunities employer.

CANFORD SCHOOL WIMBORNE DORSET

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD

The Governors wish to appoint a Head to succeed Mr. Martin Marriott MA, who is retiring on 31st August 1992.

Full particulars of the appointment may be obtained from the Secretary to the Governors, 42 South Bar Street, Banbury, Oxon. OX16 9XL. (Telephone: (0295) 256441). Closing date for applications: Monday, 15th April 1991.

FELLOWSHIPS

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON VICENTE CANADA BLANCH FELLOWSHIPS

One Senior and one Junior Vicente Canada Blanch Fellowship will be available for tenure from October 1991. Applications must be received on or before 9 April 1991 by the Scholarships office, Room 21A, Senate House, London WC1E 7HU, from which further information should be obtained.

The Fellowships have the object of promoting the study of the civilisation and culture of Spain, and are open to British graduates of any university for research in Spain in any recognised academic subject.

The value of the Senior Fellowship is £6,000 and preference is given to postdoctoral candidates. The value of the Junior Fellowship is £3,500, and candidates must be engaged in or prepared to undertake a postgraduate course of study approved by the Committee of Award. Travel costs may be met up to a maximum of £400 in the case of both Senior and Junior Fellowships.

SIDNEY SUSSEX COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

Stanley Elmore Senior Research Fellowship in the Medical Sciences

The College Council invites applications from men and women for the above Fellowship, for the furtherance of medical research. The Fellowship will commence not later than 1 October 1991 and is tenable for three years in the first instance but may be renewed for a further period which normally would not exceed three years. Stipend and allowances up to £16,755 per annum, with membership of the Governing Body and the usual Fellowship rights.

Particulars may be obtained from the Master, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, CB2 3HU. Applications should reach the Master NOT LATER THAN 30 APRIL 1991.

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE requires a Secretary to the Bursar

It is hoped that a short list of applicants can be interviewed during March and that the successful applicant will be able to start soon after 8th April 1991

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For further details please contact the Headmaster's Secretary.

Letters of application and C.V. with names, addresses and telephone numbers of two referees to:

The Headmaster, Worksop College, Worksop, Notts. S80 3AP
(Telephone 0909 - 472391)
Closing date: 3RD APRIL.

ALL BOX NO REPLIES SHOULD BE SENT TO:
BOX NO.....
BOX NO. DEPT., P.O. BOX 484, VIRGINIA STREET WAPPING LONDON E1 9BD

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GOLF

Ban ends on happy note as Levenson returns to take title

SANTA PONSA — Gavin Levenson, the South African who was banned from Spain for three years because of his nationality, collected the biggest cheque of his life yesterday on his return to the country.

Levenson received £45,825 for winning the Balearic Open in Majorca, a tournament he was able to enter only after a ban on South African golfers was lifted by the Spanish government last year.

Levenson, aged 37, the chairman of his country's Professional Golfers' Association, had three birdies in his last seven holes to give him a one-stroke victory over Steve Richardson, of Hampshire, who was close to a second tour win in three weeks.

Levenson followed his third-round 67, which included nine birdies,with a closing 69 for an aggregate of 282, six under par.

Richardson, who finished with a 71, took home a cheque for £30,530, which put him back on top of the European Order of Merit, with nearly £77,000. A first appearance in the Ryder Cup, in September, is also becoming more likely.

José-María Olazábal, the favourite, who was suffering from flu, putted "like a dog", and shot a 73 on the last day to finish in third place, one stroke further back.

Miguel Martin, his fellow Spaniard, Stephen Bennett, of Grimsbey, and Costantino Rocca, of Italy, all dropped three strokes in the final holesto tie for fourth spot.

Six players were separated by one stroke as the climax approached and the bespectacled Levenson was the one to seize the opportunity.

He holed from 15 feet on the short 12th, smashed two woods to be on the green at the 503-yard 13th for another birdie and then went ahead on his own, by pitching to four feet on the 17th.

Levenson, who retained his tour card only by finishing 25th in the Portuguese Open in October, faces an important year. "There are tremendous changes happening in South Africa and in golf we're about to bring the two governing bodies into one," he said.

"To be chairman of that would be a tough job, but I'd like to do it," Levenson, who has helped F W De Klerk, the South African president, with his golf, said.

Severiano Ballesteros, resigned to losing the one title he took last year, improved by 10 shots on his third-round 78 with the best round of the day.

Ballesteros, who was the first man to tee off, an experience he last underwent at the Volvo PGA Championship two years ago, had an eagle, two birdies and not a single dropped stroke in his 68, but was not satisfied. "I still did not drive well — I hit only 50 per cent of the fairways," he said.

☐ A £400,000 sponsorship deal with TurEspaña, which is promoting tourism in Spain through golf, ensured the tournament would go ahead and will help next week's Catalan Open in Tarragona. The European Tour will also announce a £1 million sponsorship package within the next year.

LEADING SCORES FROM MAJORCA

(GB and Ire unless stated)
282: G Levenson (SA), 72, 74, 67, 69. 283: S Richardson, 71, 69, 72, 71. 284: J-M Olazábal (Sp), 68, 72, 71, 73. 285: C Rocca (It), 70, 72, 73, 70; M Martin (Sp), 69, 71, 71, 74; S Bennett, 73, 67, 71, 74. 286: A Johnstone (Zim), 72, 73, 72, 71; M-A Jiménez (Sp), 75, 71, 71, 71; M McKenzie, 70, 70, 78, 72; M Fernandez (Arg), 70, 76, 70, 72; J Rystrom (Swe), 73, 73, 72, 73. 288: P-U Johansson (Swe), 71, 72, 76, 70; K Trimble (Aus), 71, 74, 71, 73; J-M Carbizares (Sp), 75, 73, 68, 73. 289: B Ogle (Aus), 71, 73, 75, 71; P Walton, 73, 72, 71, 74. 291: M James, 72, 74, 76, 69; C Montgomerie, 70, 76, 74, 71; J Hobday, 74, 71, 74, 72; D Feherty, 70, 74, 75, 72; G Day (US), 74, 70, 71, 76; V Fernandez (Arg), 73, 70, 71, 77. 292: V Forsbrand (Swe), 72, 76, 72, 72; D Durnian, 71, 75, 73, 73; R Lee, 72, 75, 72, 73; J Bennett, 69, 74, 74, 75; G Brand Jr, 72, 73, 71, 76. 293: M McLean, 76, 69, 74, 74; A Forsbrand (Swe), 74, 72, 73, 74; C Mason, 74, 69, 75, 75; G Ralph, 72, 74, 70, 77; M Lanner (Swe), 75, 71, 72, 75. 294: S Ballesteros (Sp), 73, 75, 78, 68; M Moreno (Sp), 72, 72, 78, 72; M Gates, 71, 77, 74, 72; A Binaghi (It), 75, 72, 76, 75; E Romero (Arg), 71, 73, 77, 73; B Lane, 71, 73, 78, 74; J Pärnevik (Swe), 74, 71, 75, 74; P Lonard (Aus), 76, 69, 73, 76; D Cooper, 74, 72, 72, 76; V Singh (Fij), 71, 74, 72, 77. 295: D A Russell, 75, 73, 76, 71; J Angulo (Sp), 72, 74, 77, 72; C Hardin (Swe), 73, 75, 73, 74; J Haeggman (Swe), 71, 73, 75, 76; F Lindgran (Swe), 72, 73, 74, 76; P Tarvainen (US), 75, 73, 71, 76.



Leng: taking it slowly

Law quells a champion

By JENNY MACARTHUR

LESLIE Law, who moved to Sam Barr's Gloucestershire yard at the beginning of the year made a convincing start to the horse trials season when he won two of the three open intermediate sections at the Crookham Horse Trials, sponsored by Pedigree Chum, in Hampshire yesterday.

Law, aged 25, who has a contract with Mr Barr whereby he can ride four "outside" horses, won the competitive section E on his Windsor winner, Haig, a 10-year old (by Ideal Water, out of The Barmaid) owned jointly by Mary Archdale and Mrs Revel Guest-Albert — Law's former employer.

Law, who made the move to Barr's Wilton stud because it involves less stable duties and enables him to concentrate purely on his riding, relegated the national champion, Mary Thomson, on King Samuel, a possible Badminton entry, to second place. Pippa Nolan and Sir Barnaby, the 1987 Young Riders European Champion, finished a close third.

Law's second win came in section F on Today Tonite, a horse which has matured during the winter after being schooled by Bernice Cuthbert, one of his joint owners.

While Haig is being aimed at Badminton in May, Today Tonite's main objective will be Burnham in June.

Virginia Leng, the former world champion, had two encouraging outings on Welton Chitchat and Welton Houdini who, in wet conditions, were taken deliberately slowly across country.

Mark Todd, of New Zealand, the dual Olympic champion, also had a clear but slowish round on his Burghley winner, Face The Music, who, following the sale last week of his top horse/Balhlua, to the Dutchman, Eddy Stibbe, may now be aimed at Badminton.

● The lack of the draw probably cost the Whitaker brothers their chances of winning the Volvo World Cup qualifier in Dortmund for they were first to start in the barrage. Although Henderson Milton and Henderson Monsanto were faultless, they were overhauled initially by Nelson Pessoa, of Brazil, on Special Envoy and then by Roger-Yves Bost, of France, on Norton de Rhuys.

The Frenchman moved to the head of the European League as a result of his victory. Currently Nobodys Rider is certain of accompanying the cup holder John Whitaker to the Gothenburg final.

RESULTS: CROOKHAM HORSE TRIALS: Open Intermediate: Section E: 1, Haig (L Law) 32; 2, King Samuel (M Thomson) 36; 3, Sir Barnaby (P Nolan) 37. Section F: 1, Today Tonite (L Law) 40; 2, Comforter (K Jarman) 45; 3, Gateways (Clapham) 45. Section G: 1, Cordwainer II (J Evans) 48; 2, Master Chester (K Parker) 49; 3, Michelmas Day (F Bergerdorff) 50.

VOLVO WORLD CUP QUALIFIER: 1, Norton de Rhuys (R-Y Bost, F) 0 faults, 34.22sec; 2, Special Envoy (N Pessoa, Br) 0, 34.74; 3, Henderson Monsanta (M Whitaker, GB) 0, 35.29; 4, Henderson Milton (J Whitaker, GB) 0, 36.08.

DRESSAGE GRAND PRIX SPECIAL: 1, Giglio (I Werth, Ger) 1,482 pts; 2, Ideal (S Rothenberger, Ger) 1,453; 3 Rembrandt Bonbet (W Uphoff, Ger) 1,446.

TENNIS

Petchey's patience pays off

By ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

MARK Petchey captured his first professional tournament when he won the LTA Serve and Volley men's satellite in Telford yesterday. Petchey's 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Nicola Bruno, of Italy, was deserved reward for the Essex right-hander, who has made agonisingly slow progress up the rankings since first showing his promise three years ago.

For much of those last three years, Petchey, ranked 233, has been slugging it out in challenges and satellites in far-flung places waiting for his break, and though his first title might not turn out to be the turning point in his career, no one could begrudge him that winning feeling at long last, nor the cheque for £1,625.

Yet when the Italian had won the first set on his third outrageous net-cord — the first had cost Petchey the first break, the second a chance to break back — it seemed that luck had once again turned against him, but he put those thoughts behind him, continued to play his aggressive serve-and-volley game and ran out a comfortable winner

After a poor start to the year, Petchey has now qualified for the Satellite Masters in Manchester next week and, though not a renowned clay-court player, put his name in line for a first Davis Cup appearance in Poland in May.

RESULTS: Semi-finals: M Petchey (GB) bt T Nydahl (Swe), 6-3, 6-0; N Bruno (It) bt L Bale (SA), 7-5, 6-3. Final: M Petchey (Essex) bt N Bruno (It), 3-6, 6-4, 6-2.

HOCKEY

Havant make superiority count in the second half

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

Teddington	1
Havant	3

HAVANT'S attempt at the season's double gained momentum yesterday with a convincing victory over Teddington at Broom Road School in the Poundstretcher National League.

Superior play in the second half tilted the balance in favour of Havant, who were a goal down at the interval. With McGuire and Blan defending stubbornly, Teddington managed to maintain the lead which Royce had given them within two minutes from the start.

Teddington nearly increased their lead early in the second half when a combined effort by Billson and LeHuray drew Rowlands out of goal to save from Colclough, who had followed up.

The fortunes of the game changed dramatically within a minute with play switching to the other end, where Cooper scored from Garcia's square pass.

Havant then got well into their stride and further pressure on the Teddington defence enabled them to take the lead in the 44th minute when Williams came in sharply on the right to dispatch a shot which Meredith helped into his own goal.

Midway in this period Havant were in almost complete command but a goal from a short corner struck by Roberts was disallowed as the hit from the line had not been stopped. Five minutes before the end Goldring, a young substitute who had taken over from Avery, scored the third goal from Garcia's pass.

A splendid save by Meredith denied Williams another goal in the last minute.

TEDDINGTON: G Meredith; P McGuire, S Blan, P Smith, J Lasiett, M Riley, M LeHuray, J Royce, R Benzies, A Colclough, A Billson.
HAVANT: S Rowlands; D Faulkner, D Roberts, R Hill, P Nell, S Lawson, S Avery (sub: J Goldring), R Garcia, D Williams, C Cooper, M Coleman.
Umpires: P Worrall (Southern Counties) and A Budd (Southern Counties).

Slough head for title

By ALEX RAMSAY

WITH only one round of matches left in the Typhoo National League, the title looks to be heading for Slough for the second year running. The championship will not be decided officially until the final weekend, in a fortnight's time, but the defending champions have virtually assured themselves of victory by beating Hightown 1-0 on Saturday.

In theory, Leicester could still overhaul Slough but with the defending champions only needing to draw with Clifton and Leicester, the draw specialists, having to beat Hightown, experts in defence, it seems highly unlikely.

On Saturday, Slough were back to their old winning ways. They showed they had fully recovered from their surprise defeat by Sutton Coldfield, carrying the game to Hightown and allowing the Liverpool side few opportunities.

Hightown's best chance came from an early penalty corner but Jo Thompson was more than a match for it in goal.

Slough won 13 corners for their efforts but unusually for them they could not make them count chiefly because Carolyn Read, the Hightown goalkeeper, smothered some thundering drives from Lesley Hobley. But after 38 minutes, Fiona Lee went for a deliberate stick tackle on Hobley in the circle. Not even Read could stop Karen Brown putting the champions ahead from the penalty flick.

CYCLING

Illingworth takes all by surprise

By PETER BRYAN

WITH an hour's riding still ahead, Matthew Illingworth had decided where he was going to put in his attack in yesterday's 85-mile Colchester Rovers road race at Layer de la Haye.

The Westcliff rider, fourth in last year's 4,000-metre British pursuit championship and now in the national squad, was one of five riders who had taken the lead 25 miles from the end.

He was in good company; among those around him were the 1990 winner and national champion, Alan Gornall, and Paul Rogers, the top man of southern racing this season. Illingworth felt that his group would stay ahead and worked out that if it came to a sprint finish he would be out of the running.

His effort, then, was planned for a slight rise only half a mile from the line. It succeeded, surprising the others, who momentarily were unwilling to take up the chase.

Gornall waited for Rogers, and Rogers waited for Gornall, to make the defensive move, but by the time it came Illingworth was 50 yards clear and able to coast over the line with both arms raised in a victory salute.

"We fluffed it, didn't we," Gornall commented to Rogers after the finish, and drew the latter's agreement. Illingworth next clashes with the pair on Sunday in the first of the season's Star Trophy Series — again in his home county at Halstead.

RESULT: 1, M Illingworth (Olympia Sport), 3hr 36min 12sec; 2, P Rogers (V C St Raphael), at 10sec; 3, A Gornall (Manchester Wheelers), same time.

Van Asselt leads cup upset

IT WAS almost a lost weekend for Indian Gymkhana, whose journey to Hull yesteday ended in a goalless draw with Welton in the Poundstretcher National league (Sydney Friskin writes). On Saturday, Gymkhana were knocked out of the Nationwide Anglia Cup by East Grinstead, who won 1-0 in the fifth round.

The point earned by Welton eased their relegation worries but they still have some work left to do. Cannock, on the other hand, gained much relief from a 3-1 win at home over Southgate. Mills scored all three goals for Cannock, Welch replying for Southgate.

Hounslow, the league champions, dropped out of the leading four after their 2-2 draw with Old Loughtonians, who saved the day with a goal by Halls from a short corner, Jennings having obtained their other goal from a penalty stroke. Rees and Robert Thompson scored for Hounslow.

Havant stayed at the top of the first division, two points clear of Indian Gymkhana, who have a game in hand. Trojans retained the lead of the second division after their 2-1 win over Warrington. But Bournville, who are two points behind, have two games in hand.

On Saturday, Havant, the holders, Bromley, Stourpoort, East Grinstead and Hounslow joined Firebrands, Cannock and Slough in the quarter-finals of the Nationwide Anglia Cup, which will be played on Sunday.

When Indian Gymkhana lost to East Grinstead, it was their first loss this season. A closely fought match was decided in the 66th minute when van Asselt scored indirectly from a short corner. However, some members of Gymkhana claimed that the award of the corner was a harsh decision.

Hounslow survived a difficult match aginst Doncaster, who were level at 2-2 before Robert Thompson scored in the last minute to put Hounslow through to the next round. He had earlier scored their other two goals. Osborn scored twice for Reading, who lost 3-2 to Stourport, the runners-up last season.

QUARTER-FINAL DRAW: Firebands v Cannock; Hounslow v Slough; Stourport v Bromley; Havant v East Grinstead.

Appeal board should give reasons

Regina v Civil Service Appeal Board, Ex parte Cunningham

Before Lord Donaldson of Lymington, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice McCowan and Lord Justice Leggatt
[Judgment March 4]

The Civil Service Appeal Board was not a domestic tribunal but a judicial, independent public law body established by the Crown under prerogative powers, the decisions of which were susceptible to judicial review.

It should give outline reasons for its decisions sufficient to show to what it had been directing its mind and to indicate whether its decisions were lawful.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, dismissing the board's appeal from Mr Justice Otton (*The Times* June 13, 1990) who had granted the applicant, Mr Thomas Cunningham, judicial review by way of a declaration that the board's decision, to award him £6,500 compensation for unfair dismissal from the prison service and its subsequent refusal to supply him with reasons for the award, was unlawful and *ultra vires*. The Court of Appeal set aside the declaration and made an order of *certiorari* to quash the board's decision.

The board had recommended that the applicant be reinstated, but when the Home Office had declined to do so it had awarded him £6,500 compensation. The applicant sought to uphold the judge's decision on the ground that the award was *prima facie* irrational since he could reasonably have expected an award in the range £14,240 to £16,374 and no reasons had been given for not doing so.

Mr John Laws and Mr Robert Jay for the board; Mr David Pannick for the applicant.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that by virtue of section 146 of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 prison officers had no right to apply to an industrial tribunal for compensation for unfair dismissal and thus the only remedy had been an application to the board, from which there was no appeal.

The judge had held that the board had been under a duty to give the applicant succinct reasons for its decision.

There was no general rule of common law or principle of natural justice that a public law authority should always or even usually give reasons for its decisions.

The remit and authority of the board was to adjudicate on whether a dismissal had been unfair and, if so, decide on the appropriate amount of compensation, applying the same approach as would be appropriate on an application to an industrial tribunal under the 1978 Act. The issue therefore was whether natural justice required that some, and if so what, reasons be given for its decisions.

His Lordship did not accept that it followed from the fact that Parliament had required some tribunals to give reasons that the common law was unable to impose a similar requirement upon other tribunals if justice so required: see *Lloyd v McMahon* ([1987] 1 AC 625, 702-3).

The starting point was to consider what was the character of the decision-making body. The board was not domestic and was to be distinguished from internal appeal bodies dealing with industrial relations problems in large companies or private organisations.

Whether dealing with prison officers, who had no access to industrial tribunals, or with other Crown employees who had, the board was an independent public law body wholly divorced from management, albeit established by the Crown. Nor was it in any way administrative or even quasi-judicial; it was a fully judicial body.

As laid down by Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice in *R v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Khan* ([1983] QB 790) fairness required that the board should give outline reasons sufficient to show to what it was directing its mind and thereby indirectly showing not whether its decision was right or wrong, which was solely a matter for it, but whether its decision was lawful.

Any other conclusion would reduce the board to the status of a free-wheeling palm tree.

The board's objection to giving reasons was that that would militate against informality and lead to an undesirable reliance on a body of precedent.

His Lordship found that totally unconvincing. If the board had no regard to its previous decisions it would be acting inconsistently and failing to do justice between applicants.

As to informality, no one complained that industrial tribunals lacked informality, yet they gave reasons.

The judge had held that the applicant had a legitimate expectation that reasons would be given. There had been no regular, or possibly any, practice of the board involving giving reasons, but the Minister for the Civil Service had promised that the conditions applying to civil servants would not be less favourable than those applying to other employees, and that had been interpreted by the minister as entitling civil servants to apply to a tribunal analogous to an industrial tribunal which applied the same law.

If the Government's promise went that far, as it clearly did, it could not be interpreted as not extending to a right to apply to a tribunal which, like an industrial tribunal, gave reasons.

His Lordship would therefore dismiss the appeal not only on the ground of legitimate expectation but also on the broader ground that fairness required a tribunal such as the board to give sufficient reasons for its decision to enable the parties to know the issues to which it had addressed its mind and that it had acted lawfully.

LORD JUSTICE McCOWAN said that he did not consider that anything which had occurred in the past had given the applicant a legitimate expectation that the board would give him reasons for the amount of compensation recommended by it.

The applicant's case on procedural fairness had been based largely on *Wiseman v Borneman* ([1971] AC 297, 308, 309, 317).

The board had contended that, in the absence of a statutory duty to give reasons, there remained the necessity to establish a legitimate expectation before a case on procedural fairness could be made out. His Lordship could find no trace of such a prerequisite in *Wiseman's* case.

The board had sought to distinguish *Wiseman* on the basis that it concerned procedure at a hearing rather than the form of the determination given after the hearing.

His Lordship unhesitatingly concluded that the form of the recommendation was part of the procedure of the hearing and no less subject to the requirements of natural justice.

Not only was justice not seen to have been done but there was no way in the absence of reasons in which it could be judged whether in fact it had been done.

LORD JUSTICE LEGGATT said that the applicant had no legitimate expectation based on practice or assurance that reasons would be given. However, the subject-matter of a decision or the circumstances of an adjudication might be such that natural justice would necessitate the giving of reasons.

The duty to act fairly here extended to an obligation to give reasons. Nothing more onerous was demanded than a concise statement of the means by which the board had arrived at the figure awarded.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Mishcon de Reya.

Unauthorised advertising inserts

Associated Newspapers (Holdings) plc v Insert Media Ltd and Others

Before Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Stocker and Lord Justice Beldam
[Judgment February 28]

An arrangement whereby detached advertising leaflets were to be inserted in newspapers and newspaper magazines without the authority of the newspaper publishers would not, of itself, amount to a misrepresentation that the inserts had been made or authorised by the publishers.

Where, however, there was evidence that a substantial number of readers would believe that the inserts had been included with the authority of the publishers, there would be a misrepresentation to the public that such inserts formed part of the newspaper for which the publishers accepted responsibility.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by the third defendant, Mr Christopher J. Arnold, from the order of Mr Justice Mummery (*The Times* January 1, 1990; [1990] 1 WLR 900) whereby he granted the plaintiffs, Associated Newspapers (Holdings) plc, a permanent injunction restraining the third defendant from inserting unauthorised advertising material into their publications, whether or not such inserts carried a disclaimer dissociating them from the plaintiffs.

Mr Charles Sparrow, QC and Mr Michael Briggs for Mr Arnold; Mr Gavin Lightman, QC and Mr John P. Whittaker for Associated Newspapers.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said that the plaintiffs were publishers of the *Daily Mail*, the *Mail on Sunday* and *You* magazine.

The third defendant was proposing to carry on business by arranging with newsagents to insert detached advertising leaflets and samples between the pages of national newspapers and magazines including the plaintiffs' newspapers. Those insertions were to be made without the knowledge or approval of the plaintiffs.

The plaintiffs had contended, and the judge had held, that by so doing the defendant would be procuring newsagents to pass off the inserts as having been approved or authorised by the plaintiffs.

There was no doubt that, apart from the law of passing off, newsagents were fully entitled to do what they liked with the newspapers which they had purchased and which were their property.

On appeal, Mr Sparrow challenged two points: first, the judge's finding that the insertion by itself constituted mis-representation; second, the finding that such misrepresentation had caused damage to the plaintiffs.

With regard to misrepresentation, Mr Lightman had sought to uphold the judge's finding by submitting that whenever a named product was altered by a middleman and then sold under the product name, there was necessarily a misrepresentation, namely, that the object sold was the product of the original manufacturer.

If the judge was accepting that wide proposition, in his Lordship's judgment, he had gone too far.

Although such alteration and resale was plainly capable of constituting a misrepresentation, whether it did in fact amount to one was in each case a question of fact depending upon the nature of the product and the alterations to it and the circumstances in which the altered product was sold.

The mere fact that the advertisements had been inserted without the plaintiffs' consent did not establish the existence of a misrepresentation. It was necessary to ask whether a substantial number of persons would believe that an advertisement inserted between the pages of the *Daily Mail* had been authorised by that paper.

The evidence showed clearly that one of the major selling points stressed by the third defendant himself was the ability to carry the selling power of the top dailies.

It was of the essence of the defendant's plan to associate the insert with the paper in which it appeared so as to give it the seal of approval of appearing in papers with high standards.

In his Lordship's judgment, there was ample evidence to justify a finding that there would be a misrepresentation to the public that such inserts formed part of the newspaper for which the publisher accepted responsibility.

The third defendant had been prepared if thought necessary to print on the inserts a disclaimer stating: "This material does not appear with the approval and/or knowledge of the publishers of the newspapers with which it was delivered."

The judge had rejected a submission that such a disclaimer would be effective. His Lordship agreed.

He also agreed that the probabilities were that the plaintiffs would suffer damage to their goodwill and reputation in consequence of the third defendant's proposed activities.

The appeal would be dismissed.

Lord Justice Stocker agreed and Lord Justice Beldam delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Burton Yeates Westburys; Swepstone Walsh.

Landlord by purchase after gift from estate

Amaddio v Dalton

An employee who was enabled by a gift from his former employer's estate to purchase a property occupied by a statutory tenant was a landlord by purchase, rather than a landlord by gift.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Staughton and Sir Denys Buckley) so held on February 28 when allowing the appeal of Leslie William Dalton, the tenant, from the decision of Judge Sumner at Wandsworth County Court on March 2, 1990 that the employee, Antonio Amaddio, was not a landlord by purchase but rather a landlord by gift from his benevolent former employer, Mrs Hester Irene Rutherford.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON said that Mrs Rutherford, who had a life interest in the property, had by her will expressed her hope or wish or prayer that her son would offer to sell the property to a favoured employee and that, if he had so offered and the employee had wished to buy, her estate would provide the necessary money.

The ordinary and reasonable person would conclude that the acquisition of the property by the employee was a purchase and that, as a landlord by purchase, the employee could not then rely upon case 9 of Schedule 15 to the Rent Act 1977 in order to gain possession.

Boundary ownership

Falkingham v Farley

In a boundary dispute, the "hedge and ditch presumption", whereby ownership of a ditch in dispute lay with the owner whose land lay on the side where the hedge had grown upon soil excavated from the ditch, could be rebutted by the strong evidence of a carefully prepared plan executed for the purpose of an auction of that land in 1914.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Balcombe and Sir Denys Buckley) so held on February 22 when dismissing the appeal of Francis and Mary Farley against the decision of Mr Recorder Anton Lodge, QC, at York County Court on September 25, 1989 that the ditch in the boundary dispute was part of the land belonging not to them but to their immediate neighbour, Mrs Caroline Falkingham.

Occupiers liable to worker

Dexter v Tenby Electrical Accessories Ltd

Occupiers of a factory could be made liable under section 29(1) of the Factories Act 1961 although the injured person was not their employee and had been ordered on to the roof where the accident occurred by his employer who had been contracted to do certain works by the occupiers.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Lloyd and Mr Justice Tudor Evans) so held on February 15 in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by way of case stated brought by David Christopher Dexter, of the Health and Safety Executive, against the decision of Birmingham Justices on July 6, 1989 that Tenby Electrical Accessories Ltd had no case to answer. The case was remitted to the justices for hearing.

MR JUSTICE TUDOR EVANS said that although the justices had found that Tenby exercised no control over how the work was to be done, if the injured workman's employer had ordered him on to the roof then section 29(1) had to apply.

Admitting deposition of an absent witness

Henriques and Another v The Queen

A judge, faced with an application to admit the deposition of an absent witness, should weigh up all the factors relevant to its grant and refusal before reaching a decision which should seek as far as possible to do justice between the parties and ensure a fair trial.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Oliver of Aylmerton, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle and Lord Lowry) so stated on February 27 in dismissing appeals by the appellants, Garth Henriques and Owen Carr, from the dismissal on March 25, 1988, by the Court of Appeal of Jamaica of their appeals against their convictions of manslaughter on December 3, 1986, and their sentences of 15 years' imprisonment at hard labour.

LORD JAUNCEY said that the importance of the evidence to be given and the availability within a reasonable time of the witness to give it were clearly relevant factors.

When a judge allowed deposition evidence to be admitted he should as a matter of course warn the jury that they had neither had the benefit of seeing the deponent nor of hearing his evidence tested in cross-examination and that they had to take that into consideration when evaluating the reliability of his evidence.

Furthermore, as Lord Griffiths had said in *Scott v The Queen* ([1989] AC 1242, 1259), in many cases it would be appropriate for a judge to develop that warning by pointing out particular features of the evidence in the deposition which conflicted with other evidence and which could have been explored in cross-examination.

If a judge in such circumstances referred to the lack of cross-examination of a deponent, he should direct the jury that, in view of the many reasons which might exist for not cross-examining at that stage, no inference adverse to the accused should be drawn.

Builder's intention crucial to breach

Antino v Epping Forest District Council

A builder became guilty of an offence of failing to comply with the Building Regulations (SI 1985 No 1065) at the stage of a building contract where he had purported to complete the works and it had been proved that he had no intention of completing them to comply with the regulations.

He was therefore not in breach of his obligation under the regulations where he intended to complete the works in accordance with the regulations but was prevented from doing so by the owner, and the onus was on the prosecution to prove absence of such intent.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice French) so held on February 15 in allowing in part an appeal by way of case stated by Philip Antino against his convictions by Epping and Ongar Justices of six offences under the regulations.

RUGBY UNION

Bath fortress falls as Wasps give chasing pack heart

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

Bath	15
Wasps	16

THE glass, which appeared crystal clear before Christmas, is clouded now. Bath must still be favoured to win the Courage Clubs Championship, but the events of the weekend gave a powerful incentive to Orrell and to the reigning champions, Wasps.

There may be talk of Fortress Enfield in football, but what price now Castle Rec: the Bath Recreation Ground that is, where Bath's cup slipped away last November and where on Saturday they lost in the league, not only for the first time this season, but the first time in the history of the competition.

Mitigating factors there may have been, like the blow to the head which left Stuart Barnes, the Bath captain, visibly shaken for much of the second half and forced him to have an x-ray after the match to confirm there was no more facial damage than a bruised cheekbone. But of serious concern to the club was the failure to capitalise on substantial possession in the first half, and to ensure the gate was locked after establishing a lead five minutes from time.

Yet still Bath's challengers must wait for them to lose again. Leicester, who have played a game more than the rest, are probably out of contention and Wasps, with three home games out of four to play, look best placed to keep up the pressure.

There were indications that the combination of Clough and Lozowski, on a soffish surface, could have been used to better profit, but both clubs were content to play a limited game. Wasps would suggest that few clubs visit Bath with anything other than trepidation — in the last 20 years Wasps have won the fixture only twice — and the first half on Saturday suggested that little was about to change.

All the pressure came from Bath, although from it they could conjure only two penalties out of four attempts and an uncharacteristic knock-on by Hall close to the line when he must otherwise have scored. The fine timing between scrum half and back row was absent and Andrew, on two of Wasps' few visits to the opposing half, was able to kick the two penalties which kept matters level at half-time and complemented the efforts of Ryan at the lineout.

Indeed, Andrew took all the penalties on offer to his club, the fourth of which gave them the lead for the first time, deep into the final quarter. It was the catalyst for all the worthwhile rugby played. Bath metaphorically rolled up their sleeves, Guscott broke the advantage line twice and earned the five-metre scrum from which Egerton, with delicate control, drove his pack forward until Hill could dive among the legs for what Bath may have conceived to be the decisive score.

Only four minutes of full time remained and Wasps deserve considerable praise for responding as they did.

After Andrew's dropped goal flew wide and Cronin rushed play to near halfway, O'Leary won a short lineout and Rigby, coming from deep, broke straight through the centre before Clough, switching the angle, shattered the defence for only the fourth try Bath have conceded in league games this season.

SCORERS: Bath: Try: Hill. Conversion: Webb. Penalty goals: Webb (2), Barnes. Wasps: Try: Clough. Penalty goals: Andrew (4).

BATH: J Webb; A Swift, P de Glanville, J Guscott, J Fallon; S Barnes, R Hill; G Chilcott; G Dawe, V Ubogu, J Hall, M Haag, D Cronin, A Robinson, D Egerton.

WASPS: A Buzza; S Smith, F Clough, R Lozowski, S Pilgrim; R Andrew, S Bates; P Randall, A Simmons, I Dunston, F Emeruwa, C Pinnegar, S O'Leary, M Rigby, D Ryan.

Referee: G Davies (Liverpool).

Remaining matches

March 23, April 13, April 27.

BATH: v Gloucester (a), Nottingham (a), Rosslyn Park (h), Saracens (a).

ORRELL: v Leicester (a), Gloucester (a), Wasps (h), Nottingham (a).

LEICESTER: v Orrell (h), Harlequins (h), Moseley (a).

WASPS: v Liverpool St Helens (h), Northampton (h), Orrell (a), Bristol (h).



MARC ASPLAND

Losing touch: Swift, the Bath wing, is unable to stop Buzza as the Wasps full back moves on to the attack at the Recreation Ground

Selectors opt for unchanged side

FOR the first time in 31 years, and only the second time ever, England will go through a five nations' championship unchanged (David Hands writes). Yesterday the same XV which has beaten the other three home countries was named to play France at Twickenham on Saturday, in the match which will decide the championship.

"We looked to see where we could make any positive change and could see none," Geoff Cooke, the England team manager, said as his A and B squads trained at Twickenham. Rory Underwood, the Leicester wing, will win his 43rd cap, thus equalling the achievement of Tony Neary, the Broughton Park flanker, who holds the English record for appearances.

Adjustments have been made only to the B XV to play France at Bristol on Friday, which shows four changes, one positional, from the side beaten 24-10 by Ireland: Ian Hunter moves from wing to full back, Andrew Harriman and Adedayo Adebeyo come on to the wings and Sean O'Leary is at lock.

ENGLAND: S D Hodgkinson (Nottingham); N J Heslop (Orrell), W D C Carling (Harlequins, capt), J C Guscott (Bath), R Underwood (Leicester); C R Andrew (Wasps), R J Hill (Bath); J Leonard (Harlequins), B C Moore (Harlequins), J A Probyn (Wasps), M C Teague (Gloucester), P J Ackford (Harlequins), W A Dooley (Preston Grasshoppers), P J Winterbottom (Harlequins), D Richards (Leicester). Replacements: J M Webb (Bath), S J Halliday (Harlequins), C D Morris (Orrell), P A G Randall (Wasps), C J Oliver (Northampton), M G Skinner (Harlequins).

ENGLAND B: I Hunter (Northampton); A Harriman (Harlequins), J Buckton (Saracens), G Thompson (Harlequins), A Adebayo (Bath); D Pears (Harlequins), M Moon (Llanelli), G Holmes (Wasps), G Dawe (Bath), G Pearce (Northampton, captain), D Ryan (Wasps), N Redman (Bath), S O'Leary (Wasps), N Back (Leicester), T Rodber (Northampton). Replacements: P de Glanville (Bath), M Skinner (Orrell), A Kardooni (Leicester), M Hynes (Orrell), K Dunn (Gloucester), S Clarke (Saracens).

Bristol hint at an overdue revival

By PETER BILLS

Bristol	10
Leicester	6

BRISTOL, slumbering giants of West Country rugby these past few years, may be awakening. The manner in which they undermined Leicester's aspirations to the Courage Clubs Championship title on Saturday, offered evidence of a new spirit and will to win.

The game was no classic. But it was an invigorating contest in which the club that had been accepting failure as something inevitable rose to the challenge in fine style.

Bristol did not release their grip until the final whistle by which time their constant commitment had driven Leicester to distraction. A compelling spectacle it made too, as Leicester toiled without success to impose their own pattern.

They lost the lineouts to the excellent Adams and Morrison by a margin of almost two to one while the home back row played so consuming a game that Leicester, badly missing the driving inspiration of Back, were simply not in it when the ball was loose.

Collings, Eves and Reece complemented each other perfectly. Collings was the driving force, Eves the scavenger on the ground and Reece provided the physical presence which helped to close down Richards.

Few could have guessed that eight days previously Bristol had been humiliated by Pontypridd by a 40-point margin. After a post match oration by the coach, Rob Cunningham, which was apparently in the Schwarzkopf class, the Bristol captain had left the ground in tears.

"The players were ill disciplined and not concentrating and I told them so very forcefully" Cunningham said. "But now I believe we have a breakthrough coming. We are potentially a good side and have turned the corner."

Those words were spoken before Saturday's match and proved highly prophetic. Bristol's concentration on ball retention was central to their game plan. Although they often struggled laboriously to cross the gain line they had a clear intention and pursued it tirelessly to gain territorial dominance. They exposed Leicester's shaky defence and but for Hogg's four missed penalties would have been safe well before the end.

Uncertainty by Evans under the high ball led to Hull's try early in the second half and Hogg's two dropped goals, one of which took him past 1,000 points for the club, provided the other points.

Leicester were never able to assert any control or expand their game and to make matters worse Liley missed three attempts at penalties.

SCORERS: Bristol: Try: Hull. Dropped goals: Hogg (2). Leicester: Penalty goal: Liley. Dropped goal: B Smith.

BRISTOL: D Thomas; J Johnston, W Waghorn, N McKee, P Hull; S Hogg, J Davis; D Hilton, D Palmer, D Hinkins, M Reece, J Morrison, P Adams, D Eves, P Collings.

LEICESTER: J Liley; B Evans, P Dodge, I Bates, R Underwood; B Smith, A Kardooni; S Redfearn, C Tressler, W Richards, J Wells, A Gissing, T Smith, R Telfbut, D Richards (capt).

Referee: F Howard (Liverpool).

Bridgend squeeze home as supporters scratch heads

By GERALD DAVIES

Bridgend	9
Newbridge	4

PETER Wheeler, the former England hooker, was at the Brewery Field on Saturday as part of ITV's prospective commentary team for the World Cup. Away from the camera, he was left to wonder at half-time: "How many classic scoreless draws like this do you get in Wales?"

Irony has always been a favourite part of his delivery. Come the World Cup, he must hope that he will not have to depend on it too much; and that, unlike here, he will have better things to look at and talk about. Both sides did finally get to score, late in the second half. Against the run of play, Bridgend won by a goal and a penalty to a try.

Lying in second place, Bridgend are snapping at the heels of Neath, who lead the Heineken Premier Division. How has this come about? Even the most partisan supporter must be scratching his head at the way his team rides its luck and continues to win.

If, a fortnight ago in the cup, Bridgend coughed and spluttered to an unconvincing victory, here they spent their time wheezing in defence and were hardly able to muster one attacking movement.

For more than an hour the game was played around the fringes of the two packs and usually in Bridgend's half. For all the pummelling they took by the likes of Waters, James and Roberts, the home side's defence stayed intact. That Owain Williams and the Bryant brothers stood their ground was one reason for their win.

The other, and more important factor, was the visitors' inflexible tactics. Newbridge's powerful forward unit had much the better time of it in the scrum but they insisted that everybody should know how superior they were. Scrum after scrum was an opportunity to exercise that power and to allow Hemi Taylor, their No. 8, to run matters.

Influential though he is, here he took too much on his shoulders. Tactics solidified around him. Newbridge, in winning most of the possession, kept charging close at the opposition and, since they did not aim their charges at the threequarters, they cancelled each other out in the packs. No gaps appeared.

As the game wore on and no points came the visitors' way, it seemed that a Bridgend breakaway could settle matters. And so it did. Aled Williams led the charge out of deep defence and, with Newbridge at sixes and sevens, Thomas chipped ahead over the line and got his fingertips to the ball to score. Williams converted this and kicked a penalty before Harries got the visitors' try.

SCORERS: Bridgend: Try: Thomas. Conversion: A Williams. Penalty goal: A Williams. Newbridge: Try: Harries.

BRIDGEND: C Bradshaw; G Webbe, P Flood, G Thomas, R Diplock; A Williams, R Howley; D Austin, W Hall, D Rees, S Bryant; P Kawulok (rep: O Lloyd), N Spender, D Bryant, O Williams.

NEWBRIDGE: D Rees; A Harries, C Manley, M Kehoe (rep: R Brown), J Westwood; P Williams, S Fasley; J Rowland, K Waters, S Jenkins (rep: N Hackman), N James, T Shaw, A Sutton, D Roberts, H Taylor.

Referee: K Brackston (Cardiff).

Neath hit top form

NEATH got back to winning ways in the Heineken League premier division as they rattled up their highest league score of the season with a 32-0 triumph over Glamorgan Wanderers. Paul Thorburn scored 12 points to take his league tally to 146. Neath are two points clear of Bridgend at the top of the table.

Wanderers, who last week lost their captain when Mike Goldsworthy resigned, look certain for relegation along with Abertillery, who slipped to a 34-6 home defeat by Cardiff, for whom Steve Ford scored three tries.

That victory, allied to Swansea's 18-13 defeat at Pontypridd, means that Cardiff leapfrog into fourth place. Neil Jenkins was Pontypridd's inspiration in a victory that moved them two places up the table to sixth. He scored 14 points, with a try, two penalties and two conversions.

Robert Jones kicked five points to become only the second player in the premier division to top 100 league points.

Llanelli maintained their title challenge by beating Pontypool 15-13 in a dour game. Colin Stephens kicked three penalties and a conversion. Newport remain the only unbeaten side in the four divisions after their 14-0 success at Cross Keys.

Promotion race intensifies

By BARRY TROWBRIDGE

London Scottish	27
Rugby	19

WITH only three full rounds of matches remaining, six of the 13 sides in the second division of the Courage Clubs Championship still entertain serious hopes of promotion. London Scottish opened things up by beating Rugby, the leaders, by three goals and three penalty goals to a goal, a try and three penalty goals at the Athletic Ground on Saturday.

Four sides have now lost twice and two others three times, and as all except Scottish have at least one game to come against another team in contention, it is more than likely that nothing will be decided until the final match.

Last season, Rugby lost three of their four fixtures after Christmas and fell quickly from promotion candidates to also-rans. Although they have hardened their game, there were signs against Scottish that if sides run at them as the grounds harden, they could again be found wanting. What is clearly not lacking though, is commitment, for they came from behind three times to lead 19-18 with ten minutes left, and felt confident enough to scrummage rather than kick at goal when awarded two penalties in the Scottish 22, after the home side had recaptured the lead, 21-19.

A willingness not to kill the game led to London Scottish's first try, after eight minutes. Mark Appleson employed some dainty footwork to keep the ball in play deep in his own half and Derek White rounded off a 70-metre move with a score under the posts. Stuart Vaudin opened Rugby's account five minutes later from a penalty wide out on the left, and with Scottish anticipating more of the same after 25 minutes, when their backs were trapped offside in their own 22, David Bishop rushed for the line and Russ Hensley got the touchdown which Vaudin converted.

Nick Grecian and Vaudin traded penalty goals to make it 9-12 at half-time, but when Rugby are involved then so is Eddie Saunders, and two minutes into the second half the leggy right wing pounced on Scottish possession and outstripped the cover from halfway for his 122nd try in 120 matches for the club.

A missed touch by Vaudin and a swift counter-attack on the right involving Appleson, Renwick, Grecian and Beazley put Renwick over virtually from the restart, and within minutes Grecian added to the conversion with a penalty goal to give Scottish the lead, 18-16. The game had hardly settled when Vaudin kicked Rugby back in front, but with seven minutes left Grecian countered from 40 metres and Scottish spirits rose.

Having weathered Rugby's late charge, Richard Cramb hoofed Scottish way downfield, and with a final effort from a five-metre scrum, the same player fed a crash ball to Frazer Harrold, who touched down unchallenged with seconds remaining.

SCORERS: London Scottish: Tries: White, Renwick, Harrold. Conversions: Grecian (3). Penalty goals: Grecian (3). Rugby: Tries: Hensley, Saunders. Conversion: Vaudin. Penalty goals: Vaudin (3).

LONDON SCOTTISH: M Appleson; N Grecian, F Harrold, J Beazley, I Renwick; R Cramb, K Troup; D Denham, B Gilchrist, P Burnell, N McBain, N Provan, D Weir, I Dixon, D White.

RUGBY: M Mapletoft; E Saunders, R Hensley, M Palmer, A Gillooly; S Vaudin, D Bishop; I Haywood, S Brain, T Revan, M Ellis, M Fleetwood, N Cooper, A Simms, N Mapletoft.

Referee: W Melrose (Gloucester).

Remaining matches

March 23, April 13, April 27.

RUGBY: Blackheath (h), Coventry (a), Newcastle Gosforth (h).

WASPS: v London Irish (a), Richmond (h), Plymouth Albion (a).

LONDON IRISH: Wakefield (h), — , Richmond (a); Newcastle Gosforth (h, April 20).

LONDON SCOTTISH: Sale (a), Waterloo (h), — ; Bedford (a, April 6).

COVENTRY: Bedford (a), Rugby (h), Sale (a), Richmond (a, April 6).

NEWCASTLE GOSFORTH: Plymouth Albion (a), Bedford (h), Rugby (a); London Irish (a, April 20).

Orrell relax an iron grip

By MICHAEL STEVENSON

Orrell	16
Moseley	0

ORRELL began this Courage Clubs Championship match at Edge Hall Road on Saturday needing 54 points to reach 1,000 for the season and after the first quarter they had 16 of them. But that proved the end of their scoring in an ultimately disappointing performance. Nevertheless, victory by a goal, a try and two penalties to nil elevated them to joint second place in the first division table.

What was so curious was Orrell's departure from the game plan that had initially spreadeagled Moseley. The pack would drive or work a rolling maul downfield; the ball would be released to the backs, when the opposition, moving backwards, was in disarray.

The Orrell pack lost none of its command as the game developed but Morris chose to work moves with his back row or break himself. The result was that in the second half, encouraged by Orrell's tactical aridity, Moseley mounted some fine moves of their own, with Boyle, an excellent centre, always prominent.

The gulf between the packs was apparent immediately. From the kick-off Moseley surged back, went over the ball at a ruck and Streit kicked the simple penalty. Then Hitchen, supported by Manley and Morris, drove almost to the line; Kimmins won the ruck and Ainscough's side-step carved a gap through which he ran to score. Another thundering drive by the forwards also set up the second try, by Halsall.

Facing the wind after the change of ends, Orrell, had they shown greater flexibility, could have given their backs a chance to express themselves. But Cusack received his first pass deep in the second half.

Instead they chose to grind on and Moseley, who tackled with great courage, were unlucky to be denied the consolation try that Kerr, Boyle and Masters deserved.

SCORERS: Orrell: Tries: Ainscough, Halsall. Conversion: Streit. Penalty goals: Streit (2).

ORRELL: S Taberner; P Cusack, S Langford, G Ainscough, P Halsall; M Streit, D Morris; M Hynes, N Hitchen, S Southern, D Geary, R Kimmins, D Cusani, P Manley, S Bibby.

MOSELEY: C Amtzen; R Kapa, R McLean, L Boyle, D Kennett; A Kerr, B Fenley; G Smith, G Cox, N Lycett, S Masters, R Taylor, G Pattinson, G Say, N Martin.

Referee: J J M Pearson (Durham).

Away shirt would have suited Shelford better

By BRYAN STILES

Northampton	6
Gloucester	7

WAYNE Shelford must have wished he could have swapped sides at times in this dismal exhibition of Courage League rugby at its most turgid. At least the Gloucester forwards were able to ruck and maul the ball forward with a zest that, while hardly reminiscent of the All Blacks, brought raw-blooded excitement to the proceedings.

If Shelford, the former All Black captain, had been able to slip into a No. 8 cherry-and-white jersey, he would have enjoyed those forward surges and the momentum might have lifted his game a notch or two. He was in a subdued mood, except when responding to Spencer, the Gloucester flanker, with whom he tangled a few times and who joined him when the referee insisted on a quiet chat about their eruptions of ungentlemanly conduct.

The effectiveness of the Gloucester pack was no surprise to Etheridge, the lock, who left them to join Northampton this season. He contributed useful lineout possession in the early stages but, as Gloucester's confidence grew in the second half, he found the going hard. He is still happy he made the move and joins the chorus which insists Northampton are "going places".

The only place they will go is down unless they can inject more talent and enterprise in a team that lies fourth from the bottom of the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship. They were lucky the margin of defeat — a try and a penalty goal to two penalty goals — was not wider on Saturday.

For the first 25 minutes of the second half, Saints hardly put a foot in opposing territory. If Tim Smith, the Gloucester full back, had been in kicking form, the visitors would have been out of reach. He missed with five of six kicks at goal.

Gloucester took the lead in the 22nd minute when Spencer pinched possession at a lineout, galloped through, with support from Dunn, who sent Jones diving over in the corner. Smith missed the conversion and a penalty goal and Steele kept Northampton in contention with a penalty.

Smith achieved his sole kicking success with a penalty early in the second half and Gloucester looked as if they were going to run up a reasonable score as they restricted Saints to their own half, but good defensive work and Smith's inaccuracy prevented them scoring.

Steele kicked a penalty on a rare excursion into the Gloucester half to give the scoring a respectability Saints hardly deserved.

SCORERS: Northampton: Penalty goals: Steele (2). Gloucester: Try: Jones. Penalty goal: T Smith.

NORTHAMPTON: I Hunter; F Packman, J Thorne, P Ingram, N Thomycroft; J Steele, D Elkington; G Baldwin, J Over, G Pearce, P Alston, T Rodber, J Etheridge, P Pask, W Shelford.

GLOUCESTER: T Smith; N Marment, D Castle, S Morris; N Price; M Hamlin, M Hannaford; P Jones, K Dunn, B Phillips, D Spencer, N Scrivens, D Sims, I Smith, P Miles.

Referee: E Morrison (Bristol).

World Cup competition

The Times this week presents an exclusive three-part competition with prizes of top-quality visits to the greatest event in the rugby union year, the World Cup, including the final at Twickenham. The competition will be in *The Times* on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

WEEKEND RUGBY UNION RESULTS AND TABLES

Courage Clubs Championship

First division

Bath 15 Wasps 16

Bath: Tries: Hill. Con: Webb. Pens: Webb (2), Barnes. Wasps: Tries: Clough. Pens: Andrew (4).

Bristol 10 Leicester 6

Bristol: Try: Hull. Dropped goals: Hogg (2). Leicester: Pen: Liley. Dropped goal: B Smith.

L St Helens 12 Nottingham 13

Liverpool St Helens: Tries: Lloyd, Penalty try. Cons: Harmes (2). Nottingham: Tries: Gabriel, Potter. Con: Hodgkinson. Pen: Hodgkinson.

Northampton 6 Gloucester 7

Northampton: Pens: Steele (2). Gloucester: Try: Jones. Pen: T Smith.

Orrell 16 Moseley 0

Orrell: Tries: Ainscough, Halsall. Con: Streit. Pens: Streit (2).

Saracens 13 Rosslyn Pk 11

Saracens: Try: Buckton. Pens: Cunningley (2). Dropped goal: Lee. Rosslyn Park: Tries: Moon, Davies. Dropped goal: Holder.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bath	9	7	0	1	147	53	14
Orrell	9	6	0	2	195	51	12
Leicester	9	6	0	3	174	94	12
Wasps	9	6	0	2	130	95	12
Harlequins	9	5	0	3	162	90	10
Gloucester	9	5	0	3	133	96	10
Nottingham	9	5	0	3	95	110	10
Rosslyn Pk	9	4	0	5	108	120	8
Bristol	9	3	0	5	76	114	6
Northampton	9	3	0	5	90	160	6
Saracens	9	3	0	6	100	173	6
Moseley	9	1	0	7	69	143	2
L'pool St H	9	0	0	9	72	242	0

Second division

Blackheath 12 Bedford 16

Blackheath: Pens: Parker (3). Dropped goal: King. Bedford: Try: Furnell. Pens: Finnie (4).

Coventry 21 Plymouth 9

Coventry: Tries: P Thomas, Lakey. Cons: Fairn, S Thomas. Pens: S Thomas (3). Plymouth Albion: Try: Waldon. Con: Butcher. Pen: Butcher.

Headingley 9 L Irish 10

Headingley: Pens: Hill (2). Dropped goal: Markham. London Irish: Try: Haly. Pens: Mullen (2).

L Scottish 27 Rugby 19

London Scottish: Tries: White, Harold, Renwick. Cons: Grecian (3). Pens: Grecian (3). Rugby: Tries: Saunders, Hensley. Con: Vaudin. Pens: Vaudin (3).

N Gosforth 38 Richmond 3

Newcastle Gosforth: Tries: Douglas (2), Spearman, Curry, Smith. Cons: Johnson (3). Pens: Spearman (3), Johnson. Richmond: Dropped goals: Patterson.

Waterloo 17 Sale 13

Waterloo: Tries: Allott, Roberts. Pen: Cropper. Dropped goals: Cropper (2). Sale: Try: Malander. Pens: Booth (2). Dropped goal: Malander.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rugby	9	7	0	2	196	122	14
Wakefield	9	7	0	2	150	78	14
L Irish	9	7	0	2	182	149	14
L Scottish	9	6	0	3	182	116	12
Coventry	9	5	0	2	125	86	12
N Gosforth	9	5	0	3	120	72	10
Waterloo	10	4	1	5	133	169	9
Sale	9	3	1	5	164	116	7
Bedford	9	2	2	4	87	148	6
Blackheath	9	1	2	7	89	138	4
Plymouth A	9	2	0	7	95	167	4
Richmond	9	2	0	6	95	168	4
Headingley	9	2	0	7	78	176	4

SCOTLAND: McEwan's League: Third division: Gordonians 10, Perthshire 4; Wigtownshire 38, Howe of Fife 8; Peebles 54, Highland 0; Biggar 11, Grangemouth 13; Aberdeen GSFP 18, Clarkston 21; Trinity Accademicals 12, Portobello FP 6; Heddington 3, Dalziel HSFP 4. Fourth division: Wayfarers 33, Penicuik 3; Cambuslang 0, East Kilbride 0; St Boswells 25, Lismore 19; Greenock Wanderers 0, Dunfries 26; Leith Academicals 9, Hutchesons-Aloysians 9; Edinburgh University 22, Carnha Queens Park 9; Morgan Academy FP 13, Linlithgow 0. Fifth division: Aberdeenshire 4, North Berwick 7; Murrayfield 9, Livingston 13; Dunbar 27, Hillocos 10; Alnwoosan Academicals 7, Stewartry 8; Madras College FP 21, Glenrothes 0; Alloa 39, Moray 0. Sixth division: St Andrews University 36, Marr 0; Clydebank 25, Earlston 6; Harris Academy FP 3, Camoustie HSFP 16; Falkirk 11, Lenzie 10; Lasswade 13, Montrose 6. Seventh division: Forfth and District 17, Duns 13; Berwyre 9, Panmure 12; Strathaven 4, Ross High 4; Whitecraigs 12, Holy Cross 22; Cumnock 20, RAF Kinloss 12; Garioch 18, Garnock 6; Forrester FP 7, Irvine 3.

WALES: Heineken League: Second division: Aberavon Harlequins 7, Dunvant 7; Blaina 44, Mountain Ash 0; Bonymaen 16, Rumney 18; Narberth 20, Wrexham 12. Third division: Blackwood 36, Kidwelly 18, Cilfynydd 8, Kenfig Hill 4; Llandovery 15, Pontypool United 3; Ruthin 7, Tenby United 36; Tumble 24, St Peters 10.

SOUTH WEST: Courage Clubs Championship: Berry Hill 28, Torquay 13; Broxham 36, Stroud 3; Gordon League 15, Reading 13; High Wycombe 15, St Ives 3; Maesin 16, Taunton 15. Second division: Abbey 3, Redingensians 9; Banbury 10, Henley 15; Barnstaple 9, Newbury 15; Camborne 16, Launceston 12; Combe Down 21, Okehampton 4; Old Colfeinarbelians 12, Penzance and Newlyn 8; Southern Counties Aylesbury 16, Windsor 13; Stockton 31, Swanage 0; Brockwell 6, Wimborne 12; Grove 6, Sherborne 16; Slough 4, Swanage 32. Cornwall and Devon League: Bideford 0, Teignmouth 13; Devon and Cornwall Police 16, Hayle 12; Crediton 27, Exmouth 15. Cornwall: First division: Bodmin 38, Stithians 3; Bude 11, Veor 6; Falmouth 12, St Austell 6; Liskeard-Looe 4, Wadebridge 12. Gloucestershire and Somerset: Cirencester 9, Whitehall 12; Clevedon 10, Oldfield 20; Coney Hill 12, Frome 19; Dings Crusaders 11, Spartans 19; Drybrook 22, Midsomer Norton 6. Gloucestershire: First division: Ashley Down 7, Old Patesians 19; Berkeley 6, Wilcden 7; Cheltenham North 4, Gloucester Old Boys 25; North Bristol 28, Brockworth 15; Saintbridge 15, St Mary's Old Boys 12; Sycson 7, Lincoln 13, Peterborough 16; Moderns 7, Vipers 8; Scunthorpe 19, Stewarts and Lloyds 3. Second division west: Bedworth 11, Old Yardleians 13; Dudley 6, Worcester 15; Kenaley 27, Burton 9; Leamington 21, Bromsgrove 9; Newbold 12, Stafford 3. East Midlands and Leicestershire: Ampthill 27, Wellingborough 14; Aylestone St James 0, Coalville 17; Bedford Athletic 13, Stoneygate 6; Belgrave 13, Luton 16; Long Buckby 12, Lutterworth 17. North Midlands: First division: Aston OE 18, Luctonians 8; Droitwich 0, Wednesfield 30; Evesham 19, Bridgnorth 6; Kings Norton 7, Whitchurch 18; Veseyans 15, Shrewsbury 12. Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire: First division: Amber Valley 26, Stamford 6; Nottingham Casuals 12, Kesteven 9; Southwell 18, Mellish 10; Spalding 17, Stamford 12; Worksop 22, East Retford 0. Staffordshire and Warwickshire: First division: Broad Street 28, Old Longtonians 3; Coventry Welsh 22, Uttoxeter 0; Leek 9, Newcastle 3; Stratford upon Avon 19, Old Leamingtonians 32; Willenhall 20, Tamworth 3.

IRELAND: All Ireland League: Second division play-offs: Dungannon 12, Galwegians 6 (at Stevenson Park). Postponed: Blackrock College v Dolphin. Ulster: Senior club: NIFC 18, Cork Constitution 23; Ballymena 42, DLSP 12; Instonians 24, Collegians 16; Malone 50, Ards 10; CIYMS 15, City of Derry 12; Armagh 15, Waterpark 15. Leinster: Senior club: Monkstown 3, Wanderers 7; Old Wesley 30, Shannon 22; Greystones 21, Clontarf 8. Matches off: St Mary's College v Corinthians, Glamies v Bohemians. Munster: Senior club: Old Crescent 13, Old Belvedere 21; Garryowen 18, Terenure College 16; Young Munster 19, Lansdowne 10. Dudley Cup: Queen's University 13, University College Dublin 20. Other result: Dublin University 43, Oxford University 35.

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: Courage Clubs Championship: First division: Old Gaytonians 9, Old Alleynians 6; Old Mid-Ap 16, Cheshunt 31; Sutton and Epsom 6, Slough 19; Thurrock 18, Lewes 9. Second division north: Chingford 19, Tabard 9; Eton Manor 58, Old Abbotians 6; Ipswich 6, Bishop's Stortford 6; Norwich 17, Barking 11; Woodford 9, Old Merchant Taylors 3. Second division south: Dartfordians 14, Old Colfeians 34; Gravesend 38, Esher 16; Guildford and Godalming 12, Worthing 7; Old Brockleians 8, Camberley 37; Tunbridge Wells 0, Dorking 12.

McEwan's Scottish League

First division

Currie 9 Stirling Co 9

Currie: Pen: Donaldson (3). Stirling County: Pen: MacDonald (3).

Edinburgh A 8 Boroughmuir 7

Edinburgh Accademicals: Pens: Shepherd (2). Boroughmuir: Try: McLaughlin. Pen: Walker.

Gala 23 Jed-Forest 6

Gala: Tries: Monerieff, Amos, Turnbull, Shepherd. Cons: Dods (2). Pen: Dods. Jed-Forest: Try: McIlroy. Con: Armstrong. Dropped goal: Armstrong.

Heriots FP 24 Glasgow HK 6

Heriot's FP: Tries: Glasgow, Allingham, Robertson. Cons: Glasgow (2), Hewitt. Pens: Glasgow, Hewitt. Glasgow High-Kelvinside: Pens: Breckenridge (2).

Kelso 23 Edinburgh W 9

Kelso: Tries: Roxburgh, Common, Thomson, Penny. Cons: Barton (2). Pen: Barton. Edinburgh Wanderers: Try: Miller. Con: Craig.

Melrose 13 Stewarts Mel 12

Melrose: Try: Chalmers. Pens: Chalmers (2). Dropped goal: Chalmers. Stewarts-Melville: Try: Foster. Con: Scott. Pens: Scott (2).

Selkirk 8 Hawick 13

Selkirk: Pens: Hunter (2). Hawick: Tries: Oliver, Crowford. Cons: Scott. Pen: Scott.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Heriot's FP	12	10	0	2	250	130	20
Boroughmuir	11	9	1	1	228	95	19
Gala	12	9	1	2	259	142	19
Jed-Forest	12	9	0	3	255	166	18
Edinburgh A	12	8	1	3	263	115	17
Stirling Co	12	6	2	4	182	171	14
Melrose	11	7	0	4	143	134	14
Hawick	11	4	0	7	162	153	8
Selkirk	11	4	0	7	153	247	8
Glasgow HK	11	3	0	8	134	215	6
Kelso	11	3	0	8	160	267	6
Currie	11	2	1	8	164	246	5
Stewarts Mel	10	1	0	9	110	188	2
Edinburgh W	11	1	0	10	118	337	2

Second division

Dunfermline	16	Langholm 9
Glasgow A	33	Cornwalpians 25
Kilmarnock	21	Hillhead-Jordh 4
Kirkcaldy	22	Royal Mich 22
Waverley	18	Dundee HSFP 8
W of Scotland	41	Musselburgh 9

POSTPONED: Preston Lodge v Ayr.

Bournemouth 16, Oxford 7; Clinderford 34, Penryn 6. Western Counties: Avonmouth 37, Truro 0; Bridgwater 24, Tiverton 11; Clevedon 22, Launceston 12; Combe Down 21, Okehampton 4; Old Colfeinarbelians 12, Penzance and Newlyn 8. Southern Counties: Aylesbury 16, Windsor 13; Stockton 0, Swanage 32. Cornwall and Devon League: Bideford 0, Teignmouth 13; Devon and Cornwall Police 16, Hayle 12; Crediton 27, Exmouth 15. Cornwall: First division: Bodmin 38, Stithians 3; Bude 11, Veor 6; Falmouth 12, St Austell 6; Liskeard-Looe 4, Wadebridge 12. Gloucestershire and Somerset: Cirencester 9, Whitehall 12; Clevedon 10, Oldfield 20; Coney Hill 12, Frome 19; Dings Crusaders 11, Spartans 19; Drybrook 22, Midsomer Norton 6. Gloucestershire: First division: Ashley Down 7, Old Pates 19; Berkeley 6, Wilcden 7; Cheltenham North 4, Gloucester Old Boys 25; North Bristol 28, Brockworth 15; Saintbridge 15, St Mary's Old Boys 12.

Heineken Welsh League

Premier division

Abertillery 6 Cardiff 34

Abertillery: Pens: Williams (2). Cardiff: Tries: Ford (3), Ring, Donovan, Greenslade. Cons: Rayer (5).

Bridgend 9 Newbridge 4

Bridgend: Try: G Thomas. Con: Williams. Pen: Williams. Newbridge: Try: Harries.

Llanelli 15 Pontypool 13

Llanelli: Try: Moon. Con: Stephens. Pens: Stephens (3). Pontypool: Tries: Davies, Jonathan. Con: McGauchie. Pen: Parry.

Neath 32 Glamorgan W 0

Neath: Tries: Bell (2), Davies, Edmunds, Thorburn, Varney. Cons: Thorburn (4).

Pontypridd 18 Swansea 13

Pontypridd: Tries: Hughes, Jenkins. Cons: Jenkins (2). Pens: Jenkins (2). Swansea: Tries: Webster, Reynolds. Con: Jones. Pen: Jones.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Neath	12	11	0	1	359	123	22
Bridgend	13	9	2	2	197	102	20
Llanelli	13	9	1	3	298	165	19
Cardiff	13	8	1	6	254	199	13
Swansea	13	8	0	7	235	197	12
Pontypridd	11	5	1	5	220	163	11
Newbridge	12	5	0	7	207	154	10
Pontypool	12	5	0	7	235	213	10
Glamorgan W	14	3	0	11	131	331	6
Abertillery	13	1	1	11	91	420	3

First division

Cross Keys	9	Newport	14
Ebbw Vale	4	Aberavon	27
Maesteg	22

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Richards to start festival week in style with treble

By MANDARIN (MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

GORDON Richards, Martin Pipe, Reg Akehurst and Charlie Brooks, four trainers who are hopeful of landing a big catch during the National Hunt Festival over the next three days at Cheltenham, can all begin the week well by winning races with their smaller fry at Ayr and Plumpton today.

At Ayr, I take the very much in-form Richards stable to land a treble with **Another Dyer** (2.0), **Impale** (2.30) and **The Antartex** (3.30).

Another Dyer, who is my nap to win the Slaphouse Novices' Hurdle at the start of the programme, belongs to the Edinburgh Woollen Mill whose horses are invariably worth following on the Scottish circuit.

By that supremely successful sire of jumpers, Deep Run, and out of a full sister to the 1983 Gold Cup winner, Bregawn, Another Dyer looked a very promising prospect indeed when he so nearly won his first race of the season at Kelso at the beginning of December.

If his next, at Bangor, was a disappointment (due to a virus I am led to believe) his most recent at Haydock nine days ago was most heartening even though he and his rider parted company in the end.

When the incident occurred, Another Dyer was in the process of running a very good race indeed against the talented New Duds, the winner of four of his five races this season, not to mention Your Well, who had won his two previous starts.

While conceding that Granary Grain and Jodami have both done well to win two of their three races this season, I feel that the concession of 12lb to a horse of Another Dyer's potential will prove beyond them.

The Antartex can complete a double for the Edinburgh Woollen Mill by winning the Arthur Challenge Cup. In between times, Impale, who carries the colours best known for Rhyme 'N' Reason's 1988 Grand National triumph, can become the middle leg of the Richards treble by winning the Hollybush Novices' Chase at the expense of Kirsty's Boy.

While Mister Tuftie, Lord Rinus, Jimmy Brig, and Burling Moss are other members of this ultra-strong raiding party from Greystoke expected to go well, I prefer **Carousel Calypso** (3.0), **All Welcome** (4.0), **Allerybar** (4.30) and **Basso Profundo** (5.0) in each instance.

At Plumpton, Martin Pipe has clear prospects of adding to his haul by landing a double with **Miss Eurolink** (2.15) and **Off The Wall** (3.15).

Miss Eurolink, my choice for the Ardingly Novices' Hurdle, was far from disgraced on the same track in January when beaten by Legal Beagle (a winner since).

Leading Role, the Pipe standard-bearer for the Don Butchers Challenge Trophy, may not be able to concede 21lb to Reg Akehurst's recent Newbury winner, **Wagon Lead**, who will relish yesterday's rain.

The softer conditions underfoot will also suit the Charlie Brooks-trained **Tree Poppy**, my selection for the Corinthian Casuals Novices' Chase.

After making a successful chasing debut at Newton Abbot, Tree Poppy was struck into at Bangor last time out. However, this out-and-out mudlark is reported to have made a full recovery and has the necessary pace to outpoint the consistent Popeswood.

Irish travel with hopes high and Kiichi a banker

From OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT, DUBLIN

SEVEN years of plenty followed by seven years of famine, that has been the story of the Irish challenge in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham where there has been no Irish victory since Buck House completed a seven-in-a-row series in 1983.

There is every confidence, though, that the Irish will tomorrow win this race in its first sponsorship by Trafalgar House, although Irish loyalties will be divided between Nordic Surprise (Jim Bolger), General Idea (Dermot Weld), and Destriero (Andy Geraghty).

The fact that General Idea gave 7lb and a five-length beating to the principal English challenger, Granville Again, when they met in an amateur riders' flat race at Phoenix Park last summer, provides the major argument in support of an Irish success.

Nordic Surprise attempts an historic double in this race and Thursday's *Daily Express* Triumph Hurdle, having already beaten top quality older horses, Nomadic Way and Athy Spirit, in the Wessel Cable Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown. The same day, General Idea put up a fluent display, quickening well despite an aversion to heavy ground.

The best of the Irish here, though, may prove to be the unbeaten Destriero, who has landed two of the biggest gambles of the past decade in Ireland, winning a Flat race and a hurdle at Leopardstown in a canter. He has had this race as his objective since Geraghty came back from retirement to train for Mr and Mrs Noel Furlong.

Geraghty also gives an each-way chance to The Illiad, winner of The Ladbroke, in the Smurfit Champion Hurdle but here I have a very good word for one of the longshots, Vestris Abu, who finished fourth to Rare Holiday in last year's Triumph Hurdle.

Vestris Abu has not had a run this season but, after an excellent gallop last Tuesday, a sizeable stable commission saw his odds halved to 25-1.

Jim Dreaper was still undecided yesterday whether to run **Ebony Star** in tomorrow's Grand Annual Chase or keep him for Wednesday's Mildmay of Flete Chase but, wherever he runs, he is thought to be one of the week's better handicapped Irish horses.

Minorettes Girl looked a racing machine when she beat More Of It by a distance at Punchestown. Mares have a modest record in the Sun Alliance Hurdle but Minorettes Girl, in the mould of Dawn Run, looks an exceptional mare in the making.

The Irish banker, though, is **Kiichi** in Thursday's Cathcart Cup. He ran very well in last year's Arkle Trophy and has since won the Galway Plate and a Naas handicap under 12st 4lb.

The Triumph Hurdle is noted for shock results but, if the ground continues to ride soft, **Chirkpar** could strike a blow for those who follow the money. If the ground should dry out before Thursday, a case could be made for Cheering News, who was rated 13lb superior to Chirkpar on the Flat.

Elsworth discounts setback speculation

By MICHAEL SEELY
RACING CORRESPONDENT

SPECULATION that Desert Orchid has met with a training setback were yesterday discounted by David Elsworth as the finishing touches were being put to the grey's preparation for Thursday's Tote Gold Cup.

"There was a bit of heat in his off-fore foot," said the trainer. "As a precautionary measure we took the shoe off, but there was nothing wrong. The next morning we boxed him up to the gallops and worked him without any shoe on. He was replated the next morning. He cantered on Saturday and was galloped this morning. He's in tremendous form."

The betting market, generally the best guide in these matters, remained unmoved by the scare with Ladbrokes offering: 5-2 Desert Orchid, 4-1 Cool Ground (from 9-2), 6-1 Celtic Shot, 8-1 Nick The Brief, 9-1 Twin Oaks and Carrick Hill Lad, 14-1 bar.

Make no mistake, Desert Orchid faces one of the toughest assignments of his legendary career as he attempts to repeat his 1989 victory.

Cool Ground, the best backed horse in the race, has credentials similar to those of Burrough Hill Lad in 1984. Reg Akehurst's improving nine-year-old has been backed down from 33-1 before his Welsh National win to his present price.

General bookmaker opinion is that Cool Ground will be disputing favouritism with Desert Orchid on the day. "The punters won't be put off this horse, they keep on coming for him," said Mike Dillon, of Ladbrokes.

Luke Harvey, Cool Ground's regular jockey, looked fully recovered from his recent shoulder injury when partnering Solidasarock into third place behind Rowlandson's Jewels at Sandown on Saturday. Both Akehurst and Peter Bolton, the owner of Whitcombe Manor stables, are satisfied that Harvey



Doughty has opted for Twin Oaks in Gold Cup

is fit to take the mount on Thursday.

Principal jockey news on the Gold Cup yesterday was that Neale Doughty has decided to ride Twin Oaks in preference to Carrick Hill Lad for Gordon Richards.

Making the announcement yesterday the trainer said: "Neale rides Twin Oaks. Graham McCourt has decided to stay loyal to Norton's Coin, so Mark Dwyer will ride Carrick Hill lad. Neale has got on well with the horse who is the more difficult ride of the two. Carrick Hill Lad is more straightforward. Ironically Neale will be riding Carrick Hill Lad at work tomorrow morning when I'll be on Twin Oaks."

At Ayr on Saturday, Doughty had to go to hospital for an x-ray after a fall from Arctic Skylight. He hopes to resume at Cheltenham tomorrow.

"I had some soft tissue damage round the left breast bone and I might have pulled a muscle. I've been very sore. But I saw Hugh Barber this morning and he said it could have been a lot worse."

The neglected horse in the ante-post market has been the former champion hurdler, Celtic Shot, who was so impressive when beating Toby Tobias and Norton's Coin on the course in January.

However, Charlie Brooks was yesterday breathing fire and thunder about Peter Scudamore's mount. "Of course we need all the luck that's going. But if we get it, Desert Orchid is the only horse that can beat us. He's a better horse than us, but we are better than Cool Ground, Arctic Call and Nick The Brief. I'm very happy with Celtic Shot — I think he's spot on."

Confirming that Garrison Savannah, last season's Sun Alliance Chase winner, would be in the big-race line-up, Jenny Pitman said: "The horse schooled this morning and is in great form. I'm very happy with him."

The trainer was also enthusiastic about the each-way chance of Danny Hallrold in tomorrow's Champion Hurdle. Morley Street, the recent conqueror of Danny Hallrold at Newbury, remains favourite at 7-2 with Ladbrokes and Hills but 4-1 with the Tote, who then go 6-1 Beech Road, 8-1 Fidway, 9-1 Athy Spirit and Sondrio, 10-1 Nomadic Way, 16-1 bar.

Toby Balding, trainer of both Morley Street and the former champion, Beech Road, said yesterday: "Both horses are in tremendous form and worked well with Respectable Jones over four furlongs on Saturday morning. I hope the ground stays wet, because then they can get through it.

"I don't want to see a glue-pot for either horse. Although Morley Street is a very good horse on fast ground, don't forget that he beat Trapper John in the soft at Liverpool two years ago."

Despite the 1¼ inches of rain that fell at Cheltenham between Tuesday and yesterday morning, Philip Arkwright, the clerk of the course, reports the going as only good to soft. "There are a few soft patches," he said. "The forecast is for showers and the weather will be unsettled but mild. I'd be very happy for a dry night and a dry day tomorrow."

Selections

By Mandarin	By Thunderer
2.00 ANOTHER DYER (nap).	2.00 Another Dyer.
2.30 Impale.	2.30 Impale.
3.00 Carousel Calypso.	3.00 Carousel Calypso.
3.30 The Antartex.	3.30 INTERIM LIB (nap).
4.00 All Welcome.	4.00 All Welcome.
4.30 Allerybar.	4.30 Jimmy Brig.
5.00 Basso Profundo.	5.00 Basso Profundo.

By Michael Seely

2.00 ANOTHER DYER (nap). 3.30 Interim Lib. 4.00 All Welcome.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.00 ALL WELCOME.

Brian Beel's selection: 4.30 Allerybar.

Going: soft SIS

2.0 SLAPHOUSE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,057: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

1	3-611	GRANARY GRAIN 17 (G,B) (Lightbody of Hamilton Ltd) J S Wilson 5-11-12	P Niven	93
2	152-121	JODAMI 16 (D,G,B) (J Yeadon) P Beaumont 5-11-12	P A Farrell	87
3	62-016	GLEN MORVERN 17 (F) (Lt-Commander W Crawford) W Crawford 5-11-1	L O'Hara (3)	86
4	005-650	ANOTHER DYER 9 (Edinburgh Woollen Mill Ltd) G Richards 7-11-0	G McCourt	99
5	0	CAITHNESS PRINCE 117 (R Anderson Green) C Parker 5-11-0	B Storey	—
6	00/84	COP FOR THAT 17 (G Eaton) Miss J Eaton 9-11-0	Miss L Eaton (7)	86
7	4/P	FLOATER 17 (William McKinley Ltd) P Monteith 8-11-0	A Odsley	—
8	0	HOT STAR 17 (N Fernandes) J Bottomley 5-11-0	J J Quinn	89
9	64	HAZEL LEAF 99 (R McDonald) R McDonald 5-10-9	K Jones	88

BETTING: 15-8 Another Dyer, 3-1 Jodami, 4-1 Granary Grain, 7-1 Hot Star, 10-1 others.

1990: MEETING ABANDONED — COURSE WATERLOGGED

FORM FOCUS GRANARY GRAIN won by a ck from Celtic Breeze (rec 9lb) at Kelso (2m 5f, soft). JODAMI beat Intrepid Lad (rec 22lb) 1½l at Doncaster (2m 4f, good). GLEN MORVERN 34l 6th to Abbot Of Furness (gave 10lb) at Kelso (2m 2f, soft). ANOTHER DYER 2nd place when unseating rider 3 out in race won by New Duds at Haydock (2m 4f). Earlier 17½l 5th to Ityityor (rec 10lb) at Bangor (2m, good to soft). Selection: JODAMI

2.30 HOLLYBUSH NOVICES CHASE (£2,581: 3m 110yd) (6 runners)

1	5F-1421	IMPALE 67 (C,S) (Miss J Reed) G Richards 7-11-10	G McCourt	99
2	2435-F2	KIRSTY'S BOY 9 (D,G,S) (Mrs K McClelland) J S Wilson 8-11-3	P Niven	88
3	P/49-0F	LINLITHGOW PALACE 17 (A Crow) A Crow 9-11-3	A Odsley	75
4	000-65P	THE POD'S REVENGE 66 (S) (W Williams) G Moore 5-11-3	J Callaghan (3)	93
5	6P3-P04	POLLIBRIG 12 (A Gorman) K Oliver 7-10-12	T Reed	86
6	P4	ROYAL INDISCRETION 14 (C Rose) Mrs V Aconley 8-10-12	J Carlisle (7)	—

BETTING: 15-8 Impale, 2-1 Kirsty's Boy, 4-1 Pollibrig, 5-1 The Pod's Revenge, 40-1 others.

FORM FOCUS IMPALE beat Back Bark 21½l (tailed) here (2m 4f, heavy). KIRSTY'S BOY 7l 2nd to Limberjack (gave 3lb) at Market Rasen (2m 6f, good to soft). THE POD'S REVENGE pulled up 2 out in a similar contest won by Paco's Boy here (3m). Earlier 15l 6th to Andbrin (gave 7lb) at Carlisle (2m 4f, good). POLLIBRIG 13½l 4th to Norval (gave 13lb) at Wetherby (3m, soft). ROYAL INDISCRETION over 50l last of the 4 finishers behind Ballinrostig (gave 16lb) at Doncaster (3m, good). Selection: KIRSTY'S BOY

3.0 ROSEMOUNT HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,259: 3m 2f) (7 runners)

1	311643	MISTER TUFTIE 100 (F) (Major I Straker) G Richards 6-11-10	G McCourt	99
2	4043/1-	SPRINGVALE CRUSADE 493 (C,S) (New Springvale Ltd) R Fisher 8-11-2	R Hodge (7)	90
3	0-64513	FIRST LORD 19 (P Aconley) Mrs V Aconley 5-11-0	J Carlisle (7)	97
4	0626-23	ARUM LILY 6 (F,S,B) (R MacLeod) T Cuthbert 7-10-12	Carol Cuthbert (7)	96
5	0616	YOUNG MINER 44 (C,S) (W Braid) J S Wilson 5-10-11	P Niven	89
6	301122	CAROUSEL CALYPSO 38 (D,BF,G,S) M Hammond 5-10-9	J Callaghan (3)	96
7	65336F	HOME TO ROOST 6 (D,G,S) (F Jestin) F Jestin 11-10-2	Mrs J Thurlow	86

BETTING: 4-1 Carousel Calypso, 9-2 Arum Lily, Mister Tuftie, 5-1 First Lord, Young Miner, 10-1 others.

FORM FOCUS MISTER TUFTIE 3rd of 4 beaten 32l by Jimmy Connors (gave 7lb) at Chepstow (2m 4f, good). SPRINGVALE CRUSADE beat Rose Tableau (rec 2lb) 1½l at here (2m 6f, good to soft). FIRST LORD 3rd beaten over 3l by Big Country (rec 4lb) at Southwell (3m, standard). ARUM LILY 3rd beaten 12l by Secret Finale (gave 9lb) with HOME TO ROOST (rec 3lb) a faller at the 8th at Sedgefield (3m 2f, soft). YOUNG MINER 7th beaten 29½l by Bowlands Way (rec 7lb) here (2m 6f, good); earlier stayed on well when beating Kangaroo Court (levels) 21½l here (2m 6f, heavy). CAROUSEL CALYPSO 2nd beaten 7l by Tenuns Double (rec 11b) at Kelso (2m 5f, good to firm). Selection: CAROUSEL CALYPSO

3.30 ARTHUR CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (£2,872: 2m 4f) (6 runners)

1	221344	BAD TRADE 88 (CD,BF,G,S) (P Pilar) W A Stephenson 9-11-10	C Grant	93
2	PP-6PUP	HARLEY 9 (D,G,S) (Miss J Eaton) Miss J Eaton 11-11-10	Ger Lyons	98
3	2-P2221	THE ANTARTEX 10 (D,G,S) (Edinburgh Woollen Mill Ltd) G Richards 8-11-0	G McCourt	97
4	111133	PINEMARTIN 121 (D,F,G) (Mrs A Martin) G Richards 8-10-9	L O'Hara (3)	95
5	0-2213F	INTERIM LIB 10 (C,BF,S) (R Henderson) Mrs S Bradburne 8-10-2	Mr J Bradburne	99
6	U03U84	MAGWOOD 9 (CD,S) (R Anderson Green) C Parker 11-10-0	B Storey	99

Long handicap: Magwood 9-12.

BETTING: 8-4 The Antartex, 5-2 Interim Lib, 8-1 Bad Trade, Magwood, 7-1 Pinemartin, 16-1 Harley.

FORM FOCUS BAD TRADE 4th beaten 19l by General Chandos (gave 8lb) here (2m 4f, heavy). THE ANTARTEX beat Marajo (gave 12lb) in good style by 5l with INTERIM LIB (rec 10lb) beaten when falling at the last fence at Haydock (2m, soft). PINEMARTIN off the track since finishing last of 3 to Black Amber (levels) when beaten 32l at Cheltenham (2m, good to firm) in November. MAGWOOD 4th beaten 14l by Inspector Ben (gave 5lb) at Market Rasen (2m 6f, good to soft). Selection: THE ANTARTEX

4.0 DOON NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £1,970: 2m) (6 runners)

1	4115	SOUTER'S HILL 44 (D,G) (I Anderson) T Craig 11-4	C Hawkins	91
2	64132	ALL WELCOME 9 (CD,G) (Llondile Builders Ltd) G Moore 11-0	M Dwyer	99
3	41	LORD RINUS 199 (D,F) (A Proce) G Richards 11-0	N Leach (7)	73
4	69	CROSSHOT 17 (R McDonald) R McDonald 10-10	K Jones	72
5	2432	PAGO 13 (S) (J Mulligan) J J O'Neill 10-10	L Wyer	71
6		SCOTTISH REFORM 196F (P Johnston) K Oliver 10-10	Mr D Mactaggart (7)	—

BETTING: 13-8 All Welcome, 15-8 Souter's Hill, 11-4 Lord Rinus, 14-1 Scottish Reform, 20-1 Pago, 66-1 Crosshot.

FORM FOCUS SOUTER'S HILL 54½l 5th to 54½l by Hopscotch (gave 2lb) at Cheltenham (2m, good); earlier beat Prince Bishop (rec 19lb) 31½l at Edinburgh (2m). ALL WELCOME 2nd beaten 6l by Rave De Valse (levels) at Haydock (2m, soft). LORD RINUS beat Azubah (rec 5lb) at Hexham (2m, firm). CROSSHOT better effort on debut when 5th beaten 19½l by Kaleidos (gave 10lb) at Kelso (2m, good to firm). PAGO 2nd beaten 2½l by Rawaan (gave 6lb) at Nottingham (2m, seller, good to soft). Selection: ALL WELCOME (nap)

4.30 AYRSHIRE NOVICE HUNTER CHALLENGE CUP (Amateurs: £1,843: 2m 5f) (12 runners)

1	B-1	ALLERYBAR 17 (S) (R Kyle) R Kyle 11-12-2	J Grossick (7)	99
2	P624-PP	ARRY OPERUL 6 (P Monteith) P Monteith 9-11-10	S Lyons (7)	72
3		ASHVALE (R Bartlett) Ronnie A Bartlett 7-11-10	R Robinson (7)	—
4	0005-30	BALLYBELL 149 (J Gledson) J Gledson 6-11-10	Mrs M Robinson (7)	—
5	0/5648-5	DAMIEN'S BEAU 7 (S Pittendrigh) S Pittendrigh 9-11-10	S Pittendrigh (7)	—
6	6/0063-F	JIMMY BRIG 357 (C Ewart) G Richards 9-11-10	C Ewart	96
7	00-	KILKNOCKIN 484 (J Greensill) W A Stephenson 9-11-10	J Greensill (7)	—
8	6/0063-F	MARINER'S LAD 10 (S) (B Thornley) B Thornley 9-11-10	C J Barlow (7)	—
9	/0-P5	PARPANTO 7 (S Pittendrigh) S Pittendrigh 10-11-10	P Johnson (7)	—
10	000/000-	DROVERS ROAD 386 (Mrs J Waggott) N Waggott 10-11-5	Miss T Waggott (7)	—
11	P/	LADY RITUAL 751 (Miss S Wilson) Miss S Wilson 9-11-5	N F Smith (7)	—
12		MARJOEMIN (Mrs A Stevenson) Mrs A Stevenson 11-11-5	K Anderson (7)	—

BETTING: 4-7 Allerybar, 4-1 Jimmy Brig, 6-1 Kilnockin, 10-1 Ashvale, 12-1 Ballybell, 14-1 Damien's Beau, 16-1 Mariner's Lad, 20-1 others.

FORM FOCUS ALLERYBAR, fair pointer last season, beat a below par Mystic Music (rec 6lb) 25l at Kelso (3m, soft). ASHVALE 2nd beaten 3l by True Fair (levels) in a maiden point at Friars Haugh (3m, good to soft). BALLYBELL has disappointed in points this season; earlier 3rd beaten of 4 beaten over 30l by Keep Bidding in a novice hdle at Hexham (2m, firm). DAMIEN'S BEAU 6th beaten over 50l by Rein Mark (levels) at Leicester (2m 4f, soft). JIMMY BRIG 6th beaten 14l by Super Fountain (rec 5lb) at Carlisle (3m, nov ch, soft). DROVERS ROAD 3rd beaten 6l by Level Daisy (levels) in moderate point-to-point at Mordon (3m, soft). Selection: ALLERYBAR

5.0 GRUNWICK STAKES NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£2,075: 2m) (10 runners)

1		SPARTAN RANGER (Mrs J Milligan) M Hammond 6-11-6	D Bentley (7)	—
2	0-6	BELLAVENTURE 119 (A Douglas) D Moffatt 5-11-3	D J Moffatt (7)	—
3	0	BURLING MOSS 122 (P Burling) G Richards 5-11-3	N Leach (7)	—
4		MAGALLUNE (Mrs A Robertson) D Robertson 5-11-3	J O'Gorman (3)	—
5	2	BASSO PROFUNDO 42 (G Reed) C Thornton 4-11-0	F Mactagh (7)	—
6		CORSTON RAMBO (A Lybum) Denys Smith 4-11-0	P Waggott (7)	—
7		DUNE DANCER (I Anderson) T Craig 4-11-0	F Parrett (7)	—
8		KIRKTON GREY (A Bell) C Parker 4-11-0	L O'Hara (3)	—
9	0	CAROLE'S DELIGHT 5 (M Dods) M Dods 4-10-9	Mr N Wilson (7)	—
10		ORIEL DREAM (S Marsh) R Fisher 4-10-9	R Hodge (7)	—

BETTING: 11-10 Basso Profundo, 5-1 Burling Moss, 13-2 Spartan Ranger, 7-1 Oriel Dream, 8-1 Corston Rambo, 10-1 Bellaventure, 25-1 others.

FORM FOCUS BELLAVENTURE 13th of 22 to Cab On Target (gave 12lb) at Kelso (2m, yld, good). BURLING MOSS 7th beaten 23l by Paperwork Boy (gave 19lb) at Hexham (2m, NH flat, good). BASSO PROFUNDO 2nd beaten 6l by the more experienced Stormy Dreams (gave 5lb) here (2m, NH flat, good). CAROLE'S DELIGHT 10th of 12 to Piper O'Drumond (gre. 7lb) at Catterick (2m, NH flat, good). CORSTON RAMBO, would appear to be the best of the newcomers, has plenty of speed in his pedigree. Selection: BASSO PROFUNDO

☐ Lester Piggott partnered Paddle Steamer to victory for the powerful combination of Khaled Abdulla and Andre Fabre in the Prix Ile Aux Pauvers at Evry on Saturday.

☐ The Fellow definitely runs in Thursday's Tote Gold Cup at Cheltenham despite the recent rain but Martin D'Or, the other French-trained acceptor, is a very doubtful starter.

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
Moore	27	112	24.1	G McCourt	16	65	27.7
Richards	72	319	22.6	M Dwyer	15	85	17.6
Hammond	3	14	21.4	Mr J Bradburne	7	40	17.5
A Stephenson	33	178	18.5	L Wyer	18	93	17.2
J O'Neill	10	67	14.9	J J Quinn	3	20	15.0
Parker	11	80	13.8	P Niven	15	106	14.2

Veterans dominate finish

By BRIAN BEEL

TWO 14-year-olds, Border Burg and Gentle Approach, fought out the finish of the first division of the open at the Oakley point-to-point on Saturday.

Both had been prominent throughout the race but, under Alan Hill, Border Burg forged clear from four out and was five lengths up at the last only to be caught and passed on the run-in by Andrew Sansome on the favourite.

In division two, Maundy Boy, backed heavily on both his previous outings, was well supported again and this time rewarded his followers with a fluent display under Tom Illsley, beating the even-money favourite Battle Run (Johnny Weatherby) by 12 lengths.

Military Two Step, judged to be half a length away third, was clearly ten lengths behind. This was one of many extraordinary judging decisions which have been prevalent at the Oakley in recent years and culminated on Saturday in Indian Conquest being adjudged the winner of the second division of the maiden when he was clearly a neck behind Sirisat at the line.

The stewards showed no favours by enquiring into the running of Asrightasrain, who finished unplaced in the adjacent and is owned by the area secretary, Arthur Clerke Brown. Their vigilance did not, however, extend to enquiring into the improved form of the winner, Pixie Clusker, who had pulled up after one circuit at Mollington the previous week.

Nick Hargreave had a double at the Tynedale where Flying Ace was an absentee and Blue Ravine and Ready Steady again disappointed.

Both opens were run over three miles and five furlongs, the men's going to Hargreave on Douglas Brig. He held him up on the first circuit but took closer order at the tenth, before disputing with Ready Steady (John Grossick) from three out and going on to win by three lengths. Hargreave's second winner was Run A Mile in the members.

Rank outsider Kimberley Rose, with Rhona Brewis aboard, gave backers of the odds-on favourite, Steele Justice (Paula Robson), a fright in the ladies' open, failing to get up by only a length.

The South Herefordshire meeting, rearranged for today, has been called off a second time because of waterlogging.

Results from Saturday's ten point-to-points

AVON VALE (Nedge): Hunt: 1, Prince Cognac (D Dando, 4-1); 2, Champagne Bar; 3, China Clipper. 3 ran. Open: 1, Gunner's Flight (R Alner, 4-5 fav); 2, Royal Buskins; 3, Little Duffy. 14 ran. Ladies: 1, Smokin Anna (Mrs K Matthews, 2-5 fav); 2, Porteus Pilot; 3, Salamart. 12 ran. Novice Riders I: 1, Clarence (Miss H Pavey, 2-1); 2, Dinglebarn; 3, Abbotsbury Abbey. 14 ran. Adj: 1, Major Wayne (D Dando, 20-1); 2, Clayseal; 3, Olympic Air. 15 ran. Novice Riders II: 1, Sheer Water (Miss J Cumings, 3-1); 2, Post Houses; 3, Mount Warrior. 13 ran. Mdn: 1, Oak Vale (R Alner, 6-4 fav); 2, Seaborg; 3, Around And About. 15 ran.

BRECON (Llantrynach): Hunt: 1, Liberty (T Weale, 10-1); 2, Lynwood Lad; 3, Celtic Princess. 4 ran. Adj: 1, Stinkin' Rore (G Lewis, 5-4 fav); 2, Dragon's Blood (USA); 3, L C Monro. 10 ran. Open I: 1, Red Timber (T Jones, 7-2 jt-fav); 2, Clover Rocks; 3, Privy Roses. 12 ran. Open II: 1, Jinster (T Jones, 4-7 fav); 2, Le Levador; 3, Norasan Case. 7 ran. Ladies: 1, Chance Buy (Mrs P Nash, 11-10 fav); 2, High Shoon; 3, Junior . 9 ran. Rest I: 1, bor (Mrs P Nash, 9-4 fav); 2, Lucky Rose; 3, Willows Casino. 14 ran. Rest II: 1, Paddy's Pond (Miss H McCaull, 5-1); 2, Jets Prizon; 3, Stanford Boy. 12 ran. Mdn I: 1, Ballybeamish (Miss C Thomas, 4-1); 2, Where To; 3, Kui Rei. 11 ran. Mdn II: 1, Channel Passime (G Lewis, 2-1 jt-fav); 2, Martin Thomas; 3, Hillgate Lady. 11 ran.

BROCKLESBY (Brocklesby Park): Hunt: 1, Conbrook (Mrs J Dawson, Evens fav); 2, Just Charles. Only two finished. 6 ran. Adj: 1, Terry's Lad (C Vale, 5-2); 2, Pandor; 3, Teucer. 5 ran. Ladies: 1, Sweet Diana (Mrs J Dawson, 4-11 fav); 2, High Poppy; 3, Barrgamma. 5 ran. Open: 1, Freddie Trad (P Strawson, 4-11 fav); 2, Nea-Argee; 3, Glooneen Again. 7 ran. Rest: 1, Cawkwell Tom (S R Andrews, 11-10 fav); 2, Adamare; 3, Wapping Reign. 6 ran. Mdn: 1, Fantacy Man (C Bealby, 25-1); 2, Oxborough Paric; 3, Flyvor. 12 ran.

DERWENT (Charm Park): Hunt: 1, Jack Dwyer (H Brown, 3-1); 2, Lady Felaine; 3, Whether I Will. 7 ran. Adj: 1, Fell Mist (R Tate, 9-2); 2, Waterdale; 3, Wild Child. 17 ran. Open: 1, The Red One (W Burnell, 5-4); 2, Spritebrand; 3, Glen Lochan. 10 ran. Rest: 1, My Dream Maker (N Wilson, 9-4 fav); 2, Tammy My Girl; 3, Tot Splendid. 16 ran. Ladies: 1, Air Mark (Miss J Morton, 7-4 fav); 2, Into The Trees; 3, Penny Fells. 13 ran. Mdn (Div I pt I): 1, Bright Hour (MrsA Farrell, 14-1); 2, Gomez; 3, Boston Print. 10 ran. Mdn (Div I pt II): 1, Final Player (H Brown, Evens fav); 2, G Derek; 3, Arctic Bard. 11 ran. Mdn II: 1, Dumtime (Mrs A Farrell, 11-2); 2, Busky Raider; 3, Rich And Red. 19 ran.

DUNSTON HARRIERS (Ampton): Hunt: 1, The Baggruder (N Bloom, 2-1). Finished alone.2 ran. Adj: 1, Golden Shoon (N Bloom, 6-4 fav); 2, Takeover Bid; 3, Dicey Time. 10 ran. Open: 1, Walkers Hill (E Nicolson, 7-4 fav); 2, Powys; 3, Royal Raga. 8 ran. RMC Ladies: 1, As You Were (Miss N Bothway, 4-7 fav); 2, Corted; 3, Master French. 6 ran. Rest: 1, Spartan Sprite (N Bloom, 4-7 fav); 2, Red Poucher; 3, Barley Way. 7 ran. Mdn: 1, Sandytown (W Sporborg, 7-2); 2, Berlin Or Bust; 3, Lady With The Lamp. 14 ran.

MID SURREY FARMERS' DRAGHOUNDS (Charing): Hunt: 1, Motor Bike Man (S Robinson, 9-11 fav); 2, Calamaiti; 3, Captain Kelly. 5 ran. Club: 1, Davy's Weir (C Gordon, Evens fav); 2, Thagarsh Last; 3, No Parole. 5 ran. Adj: 1, Robson (W Marshall, 7-2); 2, Bargit; 3, Barn Pool. 11 ran. Ladies: 1, Prince Zeus (Mrs K Hills, 5-2); 2, Captain Lowe; 3, Clover Storm. 11 ran. Open: 1, Drops O'Brandy (T Smith, 25-1); 2, The Wilk; 3, Red Ruddy. 9 ran. Mdn I: 1, Chancellorsville (P Ghazzali, 12-1); 2, Royal Nap; 3, Golden Witch. 8 ran. Mdn II: 1, Law Reform (A Welsh, 5-2 fav); 2, Clove Bud; 3, Miss Martlet. 12 ran.

OAKLEY (Newton Bromswold): Hunt: 1, Bill Cornwell (D Pritchard, 6-4); 2, Finbob; 3, Mr Anonymous. 5 ran. Adj: 1, Pixie Clusker (R Mumford, 5-1); 2, Knasbourne Lad; 3, Ruble's Choice. 14 ran. Adj II: 1, Disco Trix (R Lawther, 33-1); 2, Sheer Jest; 3, Knasbourne Boy. 12 ran. Open: 1, Bendis Approach (A Bengodale, 2-1 fav); 2, Border Burg; 3, General Wrekin. 20 ran. Open II: 1, Maundy Boy (T Illsley, 5-1); 2, Battle Stone; 3, Military Two Step. 21 ran. RMC Ladies: 1, Write The Music (Mrs T Hill, 4-7 fav); 2, Springhill Song; 3, Jazzy Jumper. 8 ran. Mdn I: 1, Major Tinker (J Trice-Rolph, 7-1); 2, Centrocean; 3, Fine Lace. 13 ran. Mdn II: 1, Royal Sunshine (I McKie, 7-2); 2, Freelance; 3, Run On The Bank. 9 ran. Mdn III: 1, Indian Conquest (L Gasson, 33-1); 2, Sirisat; 3, Wild Illusion. 9 ran.

SILVERTON (Haldon): Hunt: 1, John Sam (G Penfold, 1-4 fav); 2, Expensive Lark; 3, Iron Billy. 6 ran. Adj: 1, Spartan Dancer (G Edwards, 7-4 fav); 2, Barnaby Bunz; 3, Duke Of Albion. 13 ran. Ladies: 1, Armagnac Messenger (Miss T Cave,5-1); 2, Archie's Nephew; 3, Patralan. 12 ran. Lead Rower Open: 1, Music Minstrel (J Farthing, 5-4 fav); 2, Emperor Charles; 3, Buck's Mill. 10 ran. Rest: 1, Straight Brandy (Mrs R Vickery, 5-2); 2, Autumn Gold; 3, Lee Valley. 14 ran. Maiden I: 1, Our Jackie (J Farthing, 4-9 fav); 2, Flame O'Frensi; 3, Elver Parlus. 11 ran. Mdn II: 1, Jimmy Cone (Mrs J Liston, 5-1); 2, Happy Padre. Only two finished. 8 ran.

TYNEDALE (Corbridge): Adj: 1, Dundyvan (R Shiels, Evens fav); 2, Licky Bog; 3, Official Receiver. 6 ran. Rest I: 1, Cross Count (Miss L Eaton, 10-1); 2, Redeliver; 3, Ale La Chapelle. 11 ran. Rest II: 1, Oriel Boy (TScott, 5-4 fav); 2, Farmers Hay; 3, Hartford Gent. 12 ran. Ladies: 1, Steele Justice (Miss P Robson, 4-7 fav); 2, Kimberley Rose; 3, Tepi's Double. 10 ran. Open: 1, Douglas Brig (N Hargreave, 1-2 fav); 2, Ready Steady; 3, Hoddam Brig. 6 ran. Mdn I: 1, Sovereign Steps (Capt J Hercock, 11-4); 2, Gaelic Empress; 3, Copper Caudron. 11 ran. Mdn II: 1, Nellas Well (A Rogson, Evens fav); 2, Gilsonbone; 3, Sweet Lizz. 7 ran. Hunters' Run A: 1, Mike (R Hargreave, 5-2 fav); 2, Glenj

FOOTBALL

Old habits of Forest grind down Norwich

By CLIVE WHITE

Norwich City 0
Nottingham Forest 1

IT MAY not have been quite the classic encounter that we expected from two well schooled teams, but it was classic Nottingham Forest. The style never changes, even if the individual ability is variable. Whether or not Forest are good enough to win the FA Cup remains to be seen, yet one would confidently back them to succeed abroad next season.

Twelve years on from their first European Cup success, a Forest game of counter attack remains tailor-made for the cat-and-mouse tactics of European competition.

So while one could envisage them failing in a home leg, if not quite so lamentably as Manchester United did last week in the Cup Winners' Cup, you could never rule Forest out, as you could United, from making amends away from home.

They remain the counter-punchers supreme of British football. As it would for no other team that I can think of, being drawn away in all four FA Cup ties this season has not put Forest at any great disadvantage. On the contrary, it has possibly played into their hands.

Norwich enjoyed greater territorial advantage and far more goalscoring opportunities than their opponents, yet, like so many of the teams who play Forest, they failed to capitalise. Forest, economical to a fault, had one genuine chance and scored from it.

Had Norwich been a shade more ambitious in their planning – they fielded five men in midfield – fortune might have favoured them. The 6-2 drubbing they received at the hands of Forest on the last visit of Brian Clough's team to Carrow Road in January was probably responsible for that extra degree of caution. It was a pity, particularly since Norwich appeared to have turned that defeat to positive effect, suffering just one defeat in the 11 games since.

Two strikes, one from 20 yards, another from 25, by Roy Keane, that day will have forewarned them about the midfield opportunism of the latest Clough discovery.

A year ago last Saturday, Keane was playing for Cobh Ramblers against Monaghan United in a Football Association of Ireland Cup tie before about 200 people. A winning goal from Cobh three minutes from time meant that Keane was able to attend a trial the next week for Forest.

A player of Keane's ability could not have remained hidden for very long. Not that Clough paid a fortune for him – just £25,000 – though he must be worth one to Forest after putting them into the semi-finals of the FA Cup with a goal on the hour from the edge of the penalty area.

By then Norwich could have had the game comfortably won. Their extra number in midfield, which so cluttered the game and made two normally neat teams appear untidy, did give Norwich the possession they sought but Fleck, their lone forward, and Gordon were frivolous. One horrendous miss by Gordon from six yards will live longer in his memory than this game will for the rest of us.

In the 38th minute Phillips, whose crosses were a constant source of supply for Norwich if they normally were capably dealt with by Crossley, Chettle and company, this time drove low and hard for goal. Charles blocked it at the foot of a post, Polston slid in on the rebound and Parker, standing almost on the goalline, swung a boot, completely missing the ball only for it to strike his other leg.

Where, Norwich may ask, was their good fortune when Jemson, taking advantage of a soft challenge from Polston, laid on the ball for Keane to strike through the legs of Blades for the winning goal.

NORWICH: B Gunn; I Culverhouse, M Bowen, P Blades, J Polston, I Crook (sub: R Fox), D Gordon, R Fleck, T Sherwood, J Goss, D Phillips.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: M Crossley; G Charles, S Pearce, D Walker, S Chettle, R Keane, G Crosby, T Wilson, N Clough, N Jemson, G Parker.

Referee: A Gunn.

Arsenal's nerves are frayed

IAN STEWART



Captain's goal: Adams, left, is congratulated by Smith after scoring Arsenal's winner

DAVID MILLER

THE public address system at Highbury was busy requesting the crowd, a quarter of an hour before the finish, to be patient when leaving after the final whistle. The patience, it has to be said, was required during the match. The first division leaders, playing with five at the back against third division opponents, is not my idea of fun.

Someone said to me at half-time, in all seriousness, that you cannot be too careful in such circumstances against known giant-killers. Being careful can eventually drive people to watch something else.

There were periods during the play when, even though there was a crowd of over 40,000, you could hear lone voice comments, rather as though dropping in at a rugby Hospitals' Cup match or Enfield v Hendon on a quiet Tuesday evening in May. There simply was nothing much to rouse the spirits much of the time, Arsenal progressing expediently but with the occasional flutter of anxiety towards a 2-1 win and their first FA Cup semi-final under George Graham's stewardship.

The enthusiasm from the terraces came, if anything, more from the yellow-clad ranks from Cambridge, eager to add less-than-mighty Arsenal to the scalps of Wolverhampton Wanderers, Middlesbrough and Sheffield Wednesday from the second division. Their boys had been out long before kick-off to go through their paces with a training spin, just to show themselves at ease.

In the opening five minutes, Adams, returning to his home pitch for a senior match for the first time following a temporarily enforced transfer, was twice beaten in the air by Taylor: the impossible, it seemed, might be possible.

Arsenal, however, got to work. Bould, O'Leary and Adams shadowed Dublin and Taylor relentlessly; so that even when the ball was knocked down from crosses by Cheetham or Philpott, either Winterburn or Dixon would be on hand on the opposite flank to tap it back to Seaman, then turning away upfield as dismissively as the bank manager politely terminating a request for an overdraft.

A central defence as unsound as Cambridge's should have been destroyed by a team of Arsenal's supposed quality; yet in the midfield duel between Thomas and Hillier for Arsenal with Leadbitter and Wilkins, the Arsenal pair were less than dominant.

Arsenal seemed disconcerted by the unaccustomed experience of having two wingers stretching their defence wide; and although Campbell put them in front after 20 minutes with an expertly flicked header from Winterburn's cross – having missed from seven yards a minute beforehand – there was a lack of confidence in Arsenal's authority. Campbell was the most consistently dangerous attacker, on their *right* flank.

With 50 minutes gone, Cambridge scored in their first direct attack. Cheetham crossed and Dublin, leaping high on the near side of the goal area, volleyed the ball over Seaman's head.

This provided the stimulus Arsenal needed. Davis was bringing more thrust to midfield as a second-half replacement for Hillier, regularly releasing Merson and Campbell on runs at Cambridge's rearguard. On the hour, Bould's cross was met by Smith's head; any doubt about the ball ending in the net was eliminated by Adams spattering into it like a bowling pin-ball on target.

That ought to have been that. Cambridge, contrarywise, were not finished. Twice Philpott had the chance to equalise for a second time, but was unable to secure either of them. A measure of Arsenal's unease was the visible dispute between Adams and Dixon. George Graham, who has taken public relations advice, was afterwards the perfect politician: he liked, he said, to see emotions evident.

It was a dextrous brush-off by the manager of the month, yet it could not camouflage a performance that had had some distance to go to match the functional efficiency of the double-winning team in which Graham starred 20 years ago.

ARSENAL: D Seaman; L Dixon, N Winterburn, M Thomas, S Bould, AAdams, D O'Leary, D Hillier (sub: P Davis), A Smith, P Merson, K Campbell.
CAMBRIDGE UNITED: J Vaughan; A Fensome, A Kimble, C Leadbitter, P Chapple, D O'Shea, M Cheetham, R Wilkins, D Dublin, J Taylor, L Philpott.
Referee: R Groves.

Townsend proves a master in midfield

By DENNIS SIGNY

Chelsea 3
Manchester United 2

IF SOME of the Manchester United players are preoccupied by the second leg of their Cup Winners' Cup tie against Montpellier next week and the Rumbelows League Cup final against Sheffield Wednesday at Wembley next month, the reaction of Alex Ferguson, their manager, to this third successive league defeat could bring them down to earth.

Ferguson, who hopes that Steve Bruce and, possibly, Neil Webb, will return against Nottingham Forest on Saturday after injuries, said no one was guaranteed a place in the big games. The team's travelling army of supporters deserved 100 per cent from bread and butter games too.

Chelsea deservedly repeated their 3-2 success at Old Trafford in November and if Les Sealey had not been in such fine form in the visiting goal would have had the game won long before the interval.

Having shrugged off the disappointment of their Rumbelows Cup semi-defeat by Sheffield Wednesday, Chelsea were inspired by Andy Townsend who will be in the Republic of Ireland midfield against England at Wembley on March 27. On the day, he completely outshone Bryan Robson.

It was completely against the run of play when United took the lead after 34 minutes. Mark Hughes shielded the ball in a crowded penalty area before turning to scored his 18th goal of the season.

Gordon Durie equalised on the stroke of half-time after a pass from Alan Dickens. Durie's rising shot was thunderous. Ferguson missed it; he was already en route to the dressing-room.

Graeme Souness would have savoured the next goal for he has been a regular attender at Chelsea matches recently, now that Tony Dorigo is approaching the end of his contract.

Dorigo began and ended the move after 52 minutes that put Chelsea 2-1 ahead. He made a typical surge down the left and when an interchange of passes with Dennis Wise left him clear he finished in style with an angled shot.

Although Brian McClair levelled matters again after 62 minutes, with a close range header after Pallister had outjumped Monkou to a corner, the Dutchman made amends when he rose above Pallister to beat Sealey with a looping header following a corner from Wise after 85 minutes.

Ferguson was left to complain that United might have had a penalty just before the winning goal when Sharpe went down after Steve Clarke's challenge. He said, surprisingly, that the referee "was not going to disappoint Chelsea" in his first game in charge at Stamford Bridge. But in truth, Sealey saved United from a more comprehensive defeat.

CHELSEA: D Beasant; S Clarke, A Dorigo, A Townsend, J Cundy, K Monkou, K McAllister, A Dickens, K Dixon, G Durie, D Wise.

MANCHESTER UNITED: L Sealey; C Blackmore (sub: R Wallace), L Martin, M Donaghy, M Phelan, G Pallister, B Robson, P Ince, B McClair, M Hughes, L Sharpe.

Referee: R Pawley.

Millwall profit as Goodman shines

LOUISE TAYLOR reviews the second division

IF WINNING on the transfer market is about acquiring quality players while keeping cash in hand, Bruce Rioch offers a fine example. The Millwall manager may have sold Jimmy Carter to Liverpool for £700,000, but in paying the non-League club, Bromley, £30,000 for Jon Goodman he has gained an equally dynamic forward.

Whereas Carter is a winger, Rioch deploys Goodman in a central attacking role, and it was from this position that he scored Millwall's first goal as they beat Brighton 3-0 at The Den on Saturday.

Connecting with a 25th-minute centre from Cunningham, who showed poise at right back, he shot through Digweed's legs from ten yards. Eleven minutes later, the Brighton goalkeeper's left hand just failed to grasp the ball as Briley, excelling in an unaccustomed role wide on the left, dispatched the second from 20 yards.

Digweed's woes multiplied when Sheringham headed the ball out of his hands for the third after another Cunningham cross in the seventieth minute.

If anything, the scoreline flattered Brighton. A sticky start apart, it was all Millwall, and no one more so than Goodman, who persistently ran at the visiting defence. Apart from his goal, he made Briley's, and hit a post. No wonder then that Rioch said: "Goodman's performance was very satisfying. His runs stretch defenders, his shooting is powerful, and he will get better."

Rioch also singled out the veteran, Briley, and Waddock – "he controlled the game from the midfield" – for praise. He could also have mentioned McLeary, who was impeccable in central defence, as Small and Byrne, the frustrated Brighton forwards, will testify.

At the start of the season Mel Machin said it would be "at least three years" before Barnsley challenged for promotion, but his team seems keen to take a short-cut as evidenced by the surprise of the day; a 5-0 win at Wolverhampton Wanderers. That leaves Barnsley two points, with two games in hand, behind seventh-placed Wolves.

Darren Beckford heightened rumours about a possible move to Liverpool by scoring all Port Vale's goals as they beat Blackburn Rovers 3-0, a result which loosens Don Mackay's already shaky hold on the manager's job at Ewood Park.

MILLWALL: K Branagan; K Stevens, I Dawes, G Waddock, M McCarthy (sub: K Cunningham), A McLeary, P Stephenson, J Goodman, E Sheringham, A Rae, L Briley.

BRIGHTON: P Digweed; J Crumplin (sub: I Chapman), S Gatting, D Wilkins, C Pates, G Chivers, J Robinson, J Byrne, M Small, R Codner.

Referee: I Hendrick.

Redfearn ends frustration

By PETER BALL

Oldham Athletic 2
Bristol Rovers 0

WITH West Ham idle, Oldham seized the opportunity to move back to the top of the second division for the first time since December. With a 13-point lead over the fourth-placed club, promotion is looking increasingly certain for them.

But it was hard work on Saturday and the Football League's leading goalscorers broke down Bristol Rovers' dogged resistance only in the last ten minutes, and then with the aid of a large slice of luck.

Parkin, the visiting goalkeeper, who began his career at Oldham, appeared to have come back with the express purpose of defying his old team. He made a series of stunning saves which left Redfearn, Ritchie, Palmer and Moulden shaking their heads in disbelief, before, with seven minutes remaining, Redfearn's drive struck Twentyman and left Parkin completely wrong-footed.

Rovers took off their sweeper, and suddenly things opened up. Four minutes later Ritchie met Henry's cross with a leaping header to give Oldham security.

'It's going to be like this all the time now," Joe Royle, the Oldham manager said. "Everyone expects us to go out and pound sides here, but it's hard at the moment."

This is partly due to the absence of Marshall, the leading scorer, but partly also to a lack of the fluency which characterised the feared cup side of a year ago, as new players are slowly integrated.

Paul Kane struggled but Jobson was a tower of strength and the Norwegian international, Gunnar Halle, who initially was refused a work permit despite obvious Manchester connections, is beginning to make a real impact. "I think he'll go on to really make a name for himself," Royle said.

OLDHAM ATHLETIC: J Hallworth; G Halle, A Barlow, N Henry, E Barrett, P Jobson, P Kane (subs: N Adams), A Ritchie, R Palmer (sub: P Moulden), N Redfearn, R Holden.
BRISTOL ROVERS: B Parkin; A Boothroyd, G Twentyman, W Clark, I Hazel (sub: D Mahew), I Wilmott, I Holloway, A Reece, D White, C Saunders, A Pounder (sub: A Sealey).
Referee: G Singh.

Clean record

PAMPLONA, Spain (Reuter) – The Atlético Madrid goalkeeper, Abel Resino, claimed a world record of 1,230 minutes without conceding a goal in first-class football after his side defeated Osasuna 3-0 in the Spanish first division on Saturday.

Abel surpassed the 1,143-minute clean sheet sequence of Dino Zoff in the Italian national team between 1972 and 1974.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

FA Cup

Sixth round

ARSENAL (1) 2 CAMBRIDGE (0) 1
Campbell 19
Adams 81
Att: 42,980

NORWICH (0) 0 NOTTM FOR (0) 1
Att: 24,018 Keane 61

Yesterday

TOTTENHAM (0) 0 NOTTS CO (1) 1
Nayim 51 O'Riordan 41
Gascoigne 83 Att: 29,686

Barclays League

First division

A VILLA (0) 1 LUTON (2) 2
Cascarino 69 Mountfield 27 og
Att: 20,587 Pembridge 44
CHELSEA (1) 3 MAN UTD (1) 2
Durie 45 Hughes 33
Dorigo 52 McClair 82
Att: 22,818
C PALACE (0) 2 SOTON (0) 1
Thomas 67 68 Cockerill 85
Att: 14,529
LEEDS UTD (1) 2 COVENTRY (0) 0
Dennison 29
Whyte 87
MAN CITY (0) 0 LIVERPOOL (2) 3
Att: 35,150 Molby 39 (pen)
44 (pen)
Barnes 86
SUNDERLAND (0) 0 SHEFF UTD (0) 1
Att: 23,236 Bryson 56

	HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
*Arsenal	28	18	2	6	38	5	7	6	1	18	7	57
Liverpool	27	16	2	1	38	8	7	4	3	28	15	57
C Palace	25	8	4	1	19	13	7	3	5	18	18	52
Leeds Utd	28	9	2	2	28	11	4	5	4	12	15	48
Man City	27	9	1	4	23	17	2	7	4	16	19	41
Wimb Utd	27	7	3	4	23	13	4	5	4	17	19	40
Wimbledon	27	7	5	3	24	18	3	5	4	17	18	40
Chelsea	28	9	5	1	25	16	2	2	6	12	20	40
Tottenham	26	7	5	2	27	14	3	4	5	18	17	39
Norwich	28	7	1	1	21	12	3	3	7	11	19	34
Everton	27	7	3	4	21	11	2	2	5	11	20	33
Notts For	25	5	3	4	20	16	3	5	6	19	21	32
Luton	28	6	4	4	19	14	3	1	10	14	31	32
Sheff Utd	28	6	2	5	19	17	3	2	9	9	26	31
Soton	27	6	3	3	21	13	2	2	11	10	26	29
A Villa	26	5	6	1	17	10	1	4	9	11	29	28
Coventry	27	5	5	3	21	14	1	2	10	5	19	28
QPR	27	5	3	5	19	17	2	4	8	13	27	28
Sunderland	28	5	4	5	12	11	1	4	9	17	26	28
Derby Co	26	2	6	4	16	21	2	0	10	8	25	28

* 2 points deducted
† 1 point deducted

GERMAN LEAGUE: VfB Stuttgart 0, Bayern Munich 3; Karlsruhe SC 3, Hertha Berlin 0; FC Kaiserslautern 2, Borussia Dortmund 2; Fortuna Düsseldorf 1, Eintracht Frankfurt 0; VfL Bochum 0, Hamburg SV 1; Bayer Leverkusen 1, Bayer Uerdingen 0; Borussia Mönchengladbach 1, SG Wattenscheid 1; FC St Pauli 0, FC Nuremberg 0; Werder Bremen 2, FC Cologne 1. Leading positions: 1, Werder Bremen, played 20, 28pts; 2, Bayern Munich, 20, 27; 3, FC Kaiserslautern, 19, 25.

Second division

BRISTOL C (2) 4 IPSWICH (1) 2
Taylor 27 39 Dozzell 18
Shelton 48 Goddard 75
Morgan 70 Att: 11,474

LEICESTER (0) 0 HULL (0) 1
Att: 8,386 Payton 82
MIDDLSBRO (0) 0 OXFORD (0) 0
Att: 14,029
MILLWALL (2) 3 BRIGHTON (0) 0
Goodman 24 Att: 9,824
Briley 35
Sheringham 70
OLDHAM (0) 2 BRISTOL R (0) 0
Redfearn 63 Att: 12,775
Ritchie 87
PORT VALE (2) 3 BLACKBURN (0) 0
Beckford 36 40 90 Att: 7,004
PORTSMTH (0) 0 CHARLTON (1) 1
Att: 8,235 Peake 23
SHEFF WED (0) 1 WBA (0) 0
Sheridan 56 (pen) Att: 26,334
WATFORD (0) 1 NEWCASTLE (1) 2
Wilkinson 48 Anderson 40
Att: 10,018 Quinn 72
WOLVES (0) 0 BARNSLEY (3) 5
Att: 15,677 Saville 5
Rammell 19
Stancliffe 23 og
Agnew 49
Robinson 86

	HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oldham	31	13	3	0	43	13	6	5	4	19	20	65
West Ham	31	11	6	0	31	11	7	6	2	13	8	66
Sheff Wed	29	8	6	1	27	13	9	4	3	25	16	61
Middlesbro	32	7	7	3	21	13	8	4	4	25	16	57
Bristol C	32	11	3	2	36	15	4	1	10	16	29	49
Millwall	32	7	7	3	27	13	6	4	6	17	17	46
Wolves	32	9	3	4	35	22	2	11	3	14	17	47
Notts Co	30	8	3	4	27	23	5	5	5	18	19	47
Brighton	31	8	3	4	30	24	6	2	8	16	25	47
Barnsley	30	8	4	4	23	11	4	5	7	18	28	46
Newcastle	31	6	7	3	18	12	5	4	6	13	21	44
Bristol R	32	8	4	4	21	14	3	5	8	23	28	42
Swindon	32	8	5	3	17	15	3	7	6	23	29	40
Port Vale	32	6	1	9	27	19	2	5	9	13	31	36
Ipswich	31	6	4	5	22	18	3	5	8	13	25	36
Charlton	32	5	4	7	20	21	4	7	5	21	23	35
Plymouth	32	7	7	2	23	12	1	5	10	15	37	30
WBA	32	7	7	2	23	12	1	5	10	15	37	30
Portsmouth	29	6	5	3	24	23	3	3	11	17	31	29
Blackburn	32	5	5	5	19	21	4	3	11	17	33	29
Leicester	32	6	3	5	28	25	1	3	12	12	38	27
Hull	32	5	6	5	29	25	2	2	12	16	45	23
Watford	32	2	5	8	14	22	3	5	8	14	27	28

SPANISH LEAGUE: Osasuna 0, Atlético Madrid 3.

IRELAND: FAI Cup: First round: Dundalk 0, Ashtownville 1; Cardonagh 0, Limerick City (aet); Wayside Celtic 0, St James's Gate 2; Mallow United 0, Athlone Town 1; Longford Town 0, Shelbourne 3; Monaghan United 1, Elm Rovers 2; Galway United 3, Cobh Ramblers 1; Edenmore 1, Sligo Rovers 2; Cork City 2, Bohemians 3 (aet); Shamrock Rovers 4, Finn Harps 3; Portlaoise 3, Home Farm 1; Drogheda United 3, Parkvilla 1; Midleton 2, Bray Wanderers 0; Waterford United 2, St Joseph's Boys 1.

Third division

BOLTON (2) 3 FULHAM (0) 0
Phillskirk 6 29 (pen) 7,516
Patterson 90

BRENTFORD (0) 0 STOKE (0) 4
7,249 Thomas 64
Blake 68
Beeston 86
Clarke 90

CHESTER (1) 1 MANSFIELD (0) 0
Morton 4 1,157
EXETER (1) 2 BURY (0) 0
Cooper 40 (pen) 84 3,590
Gallagher (1) 1 SOUTHEND (0) 0
Gilbert 40 9,689
HUDDERSFLD (2) 3 CREWE (0) 1
Swain 25 og Hignett 84
Roberts 29 5,429
Onuora 66
PRESTON (0) 2 L ORIENT (1) 1
Shaw 47 Williams 1
Thompson 83 3,851
READING (0) 1 TRANMERE (0) 0
Gooding 65 4,440
ROTHERHAM (1) 1 BIRMINGHAM (0) 1
Mendonca 42 Frain 79 (pen)
5,015
SWANSEA (1) 1 BOURNEMTH (0) 2
Gilligan 18 Pulis 65
3,068 Mundee 73
WIGAN (1) 2 SHRWSBURY (1) 2
Langley 33 Brown 32
Hilting 53 Summerfield 86
2,299

	HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scarbrgh	31	19	3	2	27	15	8	3	4	22	17	63
Stoke	32	13	3	1	32	11	7	5	4	19	12	56
Grimsby	32	11	7	2	32	11	6	5	5	15	15	56
Bury	32	9	4	3	25	16	5	5	7	20	22	51
Huddersfld	32	10	5	1	28	11	3	6	7	15	19	50
Bradford	31	8	3	5	17	15	5	7	3	22	19	49
Bournmth	32	9	5	2	25	16	4	5	7	18	23	49
Birmingham	32	5	7	4	15	16	7	6	4	18	16	49
Tranmere	32	8	5	3	22	15	5	4	7	19	23	48
Cambridge	32	7	3	6	24	19	6	5	5	22	18	47
Reading	32	9	3	4	29	17	4	5	7	17	17	47
Wigan	32	9	2	5	29	17	4	5	8	22	27	46
Stoke	32	5	6	5	17	22	5	5	6	17	17	44
Rochdale	32	7	2	7	23	21	5	5	6	17	13	44
L Orient	32	11	1	3	29	12	2	3	9	12	22	43
Exeter	32	8	5	3	22	16	3	2	12	17	28	43
Swansea	32	8	4	4	22	18	4	1	10	12	25	41
Preston	32	6	4	6	21	16	4	3	9	16	25	34
Chester	32	6	4	5	19	17	3	3	10	13	28	31
Torquay	31	5	5	6	18	19	3	3	9	20	28	26
Crewe	32	3	8	5	19	23	1	10	21	31	23	25
Mansfield	31	2	7	6	12	16	3	4	8	16	25	24
Shrewsbury	32	2	6	8	12	26	3	3	9	25	32	24
Rotherham	30	3	5	5	17	21	1	2	11	19	35	22

Fourth division

BURNLEY (0) 2 GILLINGHAM (1) 2
Futcher 47 (pen) Lovell 23
Davis 55 Crown 66
6,469

CHESTRFLD (0) 2 HALIFAX (1) 1
Williams 61 Norris 24
Turnbull 90 3,565

HEREFORD (1) 1 ALDERSHOT (0) 0
Brain 19 2,276
LINCOLN (2) 3 HARTLPOOL (0) 1
Lamor 15 78 Allon 70
Putman 39 2,575

MAIDSTONE (1) 1 BLACKPOOL (1) 1
Butler 7 Richards 27
2,253

NORTHMPTN (1) 1 CARLISLE (0) 1
Campbell 2 Proudlock 70
3,216

TORQUAY (0) 2 DARLINGTN (0) 1
Tynan 48 Elleson 53
Holmes 90 3,078
WALSALL (0) 0 CARDIFF (0) 0
3,950

WREXHAM (1) 2 ROCHDALE (1) 1
Jones 36 82 Dawton 1
1,323

YORK (0) 0 PETERBORO (0) 4
2,511 Riley 7 42
Hind 31
Robinson 79

	HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Darlington	33	18	4	2	55	8	7	6	4	22	17	61
Northampton	33	11	3	2	28	11	4	8	5	19	22	54
Peterboro	31	8	5	2	22	16	6	6	3	20	12	53
Doncaster	32	10	3	3	29	14	4	5	7	19	19	50
Blackpool	31	7	9	0	31	10	3	7	6	19	22	46
Torquay	33	8	3	3	24	13	3	7	7	17	23	46
Scunthorpe	32	12	3	1	35	12	1	5	8	12	27	47
Gillingham	32	9	4	3	29	13	3	6	7	16	23	46
Scarboro	32	8	6	2	25	12	3	5	8	17	27	44
Hartlpool	32	8	5	3	25	16	3	4	9	13	27	42
Crewe	31	7	4	5	21	18	4	4	7	11	17	44
Hereford	31	7	7	1	25	16	3	3	9	11	32	42
Rochdale	32	8	4	4	22	13	2	7	7	15	22	41
Carlisle	32	9	2	5	29	22	3	4	9	14	28	40
Aldershot	31	8	6	1	27	19	1	6	8	12	29	39
Halifax	32	8	6	2	25	12	3	4	9	14	27	39
Lincoln	31	6	5	3	19	15	2	5	7	12	22	34
York	31	5	5	6	16	17	2	5	7	18	29	31
Aldershot	30	5	7	3	31	23	2	3	10	17	37	31
Chesterfld	31	5	4	6	23	17	1	2	12	6	25	29
Wrexham	31	5	5	6	23	22	2	2	12	13	29	27
Hereford	31	4	5	6	19	20	1	2	13	15	38	22

GM Vauxhall Conference

BATH (0) 0 STAFFORD R (1) 1
813 Anastasi 11
BOSTON (1) 2 SUTTON UTD (1) 2
Nesbitt 23 Dennis 34
Beech 79 (pen) Massey 50
1,130
COLCHESTR (1) 1 MACCLSFLD (0) 0
Atkins 33 (pen) 2,785
FISHER ATH (3) 5 NORTHWICH (1) 2
Sproson 3 og Callaghan 28
Gorman 14 Grisham 80
80 (pen) 88 136
Blackford 28
GATESHEAD (0) 1 BARNET (1) 3
Harrison 55 Lowe 32
972 Evans 69
Bull 86 (pen)
MERTHYR (1) 1 KETTERING (1) 3
Williams 13 Goodwin 37
Vaughan 72 80
RUNCORN (2) 2 CHELTENHM (0) 2
Brady 36 Jordan 52
Saunders 44 Casey 55
575
TELFORD (1) 1 KIDDRMSTR (0) 0
Myers 42 1,336
WELLING (2) 2 ALTRINCHM (0) 2
Robbins 24 43 Wiggins 65
728 Hughes 88
WYCOMBE (1) 2 SLOUGH (0) 1
Scott 36 Stebbins 32
Ryan 83 3,169
YEOVIL (0) 0 BARROW (0) 3
2,257 King 55
Cowperthwaite 69
Messenger 88

	HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Runcorn	30	18	3	2	39	14	9	4	2	37	18	94
Kettering	29	18	3	0	55	6	9	4	3	32	19	94
Colchester	29	17	2	0	55	6	9	4	4	23	16	92
Altrincham	28	9	4	0	27	10	8	4	1	28	13	59
Wycombe	30	11	3	2	36	13	4	5	5	22	20	53
Telford	29	8	3	3	22	16	6	3	4	18	16	48
Maidstone	29	8	3	3	27	14	3	6	5	16	22	42
Stafford R	29	8	5	2	25	13	3	4	7	13	21	42
Runcorn	30	10	3	2	33	16	2	3	10	13	30	42
Boston	29	8	5	2	23	12	3	4	7	17	27	42
Welling	29	8	5	2	24	14	3	2	9	11	23	40
Merthyr	29	8	4	3	22	12	3	4	8	15	27	38
Slough	31	8	3	5	28	23	2	5	8	13	23	35
Sutton Utd	30	5	7	3	23	15	4	3	8	23	30	34
Stafford R	29	5	4	4	22	13	3	4	8	12	21	32
Gateshead	29	6	2	7	21	23	3	3	8	15	30	32
Bradley	29	5	4	5	22	20	2	5	7	13	28	30
Barnet	29	5	4	5	23	21	2	5	7	15	26	30
Yeovil	29	5	4	5	22	21	2	4	8	13	24	29
Cheltenhm	27	3	4	5	15	21	2	5	7	17	35	25
Fisher Ath	29	3	5	5	19	18	2	3	10	13	40	23
Bath	29	4	3	6	22	29	1	3	11	12	29	21

B and Q Scottish League

Premier division

RANGERS (0) 0 CELTIC (0) 2
11,000 McCoy 70
RANGERS (1) 2 HEARTS (1) 1
Steven 16 Ferguson 28
Walters 81 36,126
ST JOHNSTN (0) 1 MOTHERWELL (2) 4
Treanor 66 (pen) Arnott 7 36
8,079 McLeod 57
Kirk 86
ST MIRREN (0) 0 DUNDEE UTD (0) 1
3,960 Jackson 83

POSTPONED: Aberdeen v Dunfermline.

	HOME					AWAY					
	P

FOOTBALL

Post-match blow may lead to FA charging Hodges

By IAN ROSS

Sunderland	0
Sheffield United	1

GLYNN Hodges, the Sheffield United midfield player, is likely to face a Football Association charge of bringing the game into disrepute after an incident at the end of Saturday's game at Roker Park.

Before his unforgivable behaviour at the conclusion of a game that did little to enhance either club's claims that it is truly worthy of retaining a place in the first division, Hodges was rightly being fêted as the catalytic force behind United's remarkable renaissance.

The player, who will shortly complete a £400,000 transfer after an extended loan period from Crystal Palace, has made such an impact for United that they have won their last six league fixtures, an improbable sequence in their rise from the foot of the table.

His rapid development as an authoritative player with a rare gift for inspiring those less talented individuals around him makes all the more mystifying, his callous action. Midway through the second half, Hodges had been involved in an unseemly confrontation with Armstrong, the Sunderland midfield player, an incident which possibly precipitated his substitution in the 87th minute.

As Armstrong made his way towards the players' tunnel, Hodges rose from the dug-out to renew hostilities by sending his adversary tumbling with what appeared to be a head butt.

After being restrained by a police officer, Hodges was ushered away to the dressing-room by Dave Bassett, the United manager, who confirmed that he is to hold an internal investigation into what he described as "an unsavoury incident".

Denis Smith, the Sunderland manager, said that he felt it was unlikely that Armstrong would seek to prefer criminal charges against Hodges. "But what Glynn Hodges did takes some believing," he said.

Sadly, a game of much commitment and endeavour but of dubious quality contained several other unpalatable moments, not least the sendings-of of Ball, of Sunderland, and Gannon, of United, for fighting in the 82 minute.

The decisive goal, which was United's only reasonable chance came in the 55th minute when Bryson drove in via the inside of a post after Bennett had misjudged Tracey's long clearance.

SUNDERLAND: A Norman; G Owers, A Smith, G Bennett, K Ball, B Mooney, (sub: K Brady), P Bracewell, G Armstrong, P Davenport, M Gabbiadini, C Pascoe.

SHEFFIELD UNITED: S Tracey; C Wilder, D Barnes, V Jones, P Beesley, C Hill, C Bradshaw, A Agana, G Hodges, B Deane, I Bryson.

Referee: M Reed.

Joke turns sour on fading Villa

By CHRIS MOORE

Aston Villa	1
Luton Town	2

A TEAM picture of Villa's players wearing red noses occupied half a page in the club programme on Saturday. But it was red faces out on the pitch.

Lee Martin's own goal for Manchester United against Montpellier last week had nothing on the volley Derek Mountfield struck past Nigel Spink to gift Luton the lead. David Platt then marked his return after a seven-week absence through injury by missing a 49th minute penalty.

Villa started the match with three centre backs but ended up substituting two of them. And when Ian Olney came on for Mountfield for the final quarter, it was the new £1 million forward, Gary Penrice, who dropped into midfield.

It was little wonder the disbelieving Villa supporters trooped away not knowing whether to laugh or cry. But the fact is that last season's runners-up are now deeply entrenched in the relegation battle.

Luton, with only one point from their previous nine away games, snuck with the side thrashed 3-0 at Maine Road and were there for the taking early on as Penrice, Platt and Cascarino all forced fine saves from Chamberlain.

But Mountfield's 28th minute own goal turned the tide and Dowie and Black might easily have added to Villa's woes before Mark Pembridge scored a memorable first league goal, from outside the area, on the stroke of half-time.

Platt's penalty miss convinced Luton it was going to be their day even though Platt headed back Cowans'scross for Cascarino to reduce the deficit with twenty minutes remaining.

ASTON VILLA: N Spink; C Price, S Gray, P McGrath, D Mountfield (sub: I Olney), K Nielsen (sub: K Gage), D Yorke, D Platt, A Cascarino, G Cowans, G Penrice.

LUTON TOWN: A Chamberlain; M Johnson, D McDonough, D Beaumont, G Rodger, J Dreyer, L Elstrup, D Preece, I Dowie, M Pembridge, K Black.

Referee: L Dilkes.

Tynan puts one past his own chairman

A WEEK of upheaval at the Plainmoor Ground ended dramatically on Saturday when Torquay United beat Darlington, the leaders of the fourth division, 2-1 with a last-minute goal.

Earlier in the week a home defeat by Lincoln City had prompted what Mike Bateson, the Torquay chairman, had called "tough decisions". He and Dave Smith, the manager, put eight players, including the club's leading scorer and player-coach, Tommy Tynan, on the transfer list.

At the end of October, Torquay were eight points clear at the top. By Saturday, after a run which had brought only 15 points from 15 games, they were eighth, 16 points behind the leaders.

Tynan confounded all expectations. After the interval, Paul Holmes produced a shot which Prudhoe did well to parry out to the left touchline, from there Lonam crossed low to Tynan. He made no mistake from five yards.

The lead lasted only five minutes before Tait produced a lovely pass to release Borthwick. His low shot hit the post but Ellison was on hand to equalise.

Torquay might have settled for that but Tynan did not. Receiving the ball from Whiston on the right, he beat his man and crossed splendidly for Micky Holmes to convert.

In the third division, Grimsby Town, in third place, beat the leaders, Southend United, with a goal by Gilbert. Bolton Wanderers closed to within a point of Southend by beating Fulham 3-0, Phillliskirk scoring twice. It was their 23rd League game without defeat.

TORQUAY UNITED: G Howells; P Holmes, J Uzzell, P Whiston, M Elliott, M Holmes, R Musker, W Saunders, T Tynan, D Edwards, M Loram.

DARLINGTON: M Prudhoe; L McJannet, F Ray, J Willis, K Smith, G Gill, S Mardenborough (sub: G Coatsworth), A Toman, J Borthwick, L Ellison (sub: M Trotter), M Tait.

Referee: A Smith.

Altrincham's pursuit undermined by flaws

By WALTER GAMMIE

Welling United	2
Altrincham	2

ALTRINCHAM arrived at Park View Road on Saturday trailing a ribbon of statistics from their rocket rise into the GM Vauxhall Conference title chase: unbeaten in 18 Conference matches, one defeat in 28 matches, seven successive League away wins and never beaten at Welling.

So, an upset was in the offing when they trooped off at half-time, 2-0 down to two goals by Terry Robbins. A fine save by Jeff Wealands prevented Steve White extending Welling's lead at the start of the second half before the irresistible confidence of Altrincham's front runners turned the tide.

Ironically it was the left back, Wiggins, who pulled back the first goal in the 65th minute, unmarked as Shaw floated in a free kick and thumping the ball past Barron, returning for Welling after a knee operation.

Nicky Brigden, the Welling manager, reinforced the rearguard by putting on Glover, a defender, for Abbott, the forward, but they were exposed again, with three minutes left, when Wiggins's long ball down the left was headed on by McKenna and Hughes, the substitute, had time to crash the equaliser.

Impressive as Altrincham's form has been, the way they conceded Welling's goals must cast doubt on their title pretentions. Both were caused by fatal hesitation. Robbins nipped in each time to capitalise as Anderson played a weak back header and Miller allowed a long kick by Barron to bounce over his shoulder. Altrincham must play eight of their final 14 matches away.

WELLING UNITED: P Barron; M Horne, D Horton, N Cunningham, N Ransom, J Francis, S White, T Booker, G Abbott (sub: J Glover), T Robbins, T Reynolds.

ALTRINCHAM: J Wealands; T Miller, H Wiggins, P Rowlands, A Rooney, G Anderson, N Shaw, N Daws, J Brady (sub: M Hughes), K McKenna, P Showler.

Referee: J Moore.

THE TIMES SPORTS SERVICE

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KEITH BLACKMORE reviews the third and fourth divisions

Page makes most of new rules



Page: lowered own record

SHARON Page and Martin Harris broke British records at the national grand prix final at Southampton last night, leaving no doubt that a change in backstroke rules will alter the record books beyond recognition in the world cup series over the next month.

Page, of Mercury Wigan Wasps, came within 0.33sec of getting the first short-course world record, clocking 29.24 seconds for the 50 metres. She lowered her own British record at 100 metres on Saturday in 1min 02.34sec. The progression rate of Kathy Read, of Barnet, and Emma Tattam, of Bracknell, second and third respectively in both races, was equally impressive.

Read, who was British No 1 for six years before the advent of Page and Joanne Deakins, of Gloucester, also broke the previous British record in the 100 metres on Saturday, coming home in 1min 02.96sec. Tattam, training partner of Sharron Davies, improved almost two seconds.

Page, who lives in Norfolk, but is coached by correspondence from Keith Bewley at Wigan, was clearly delighted with her times and promises further improvements, having had only two days to practice the turn before Southampton.

Harris, also of Barnet, goes from strength to strength each time he competes. He became the first Briton under 26 seconds on 50 metres backstroke last night, winning comfortably in 25.87sec.

Both Page and Harris have been quick to take advantage of the change in backstroke rules which came into effect on March 3. Swimmers no longer have to touch the wall with their hand at the turn, allowing a much faster continuous rolling motion, resembling a free-style turn. Page started to practice the turn just two days before Southampton. March 3 also marked the date from which world records can be set in a short-course (25m) pool.

Mike Fibbens, Harris's teammate, was the only swimmer to win two categories, sprint freestyle and butterfly. This helped his brother-in-law and coach, Denise Campbell, collect the best club award.

RESULTS: Men: 400m individual medley: 1, A Rolley (Portsmouth Northsea), 4:24.54; 2, P Walker (Warrender), 4:24.85; 3, I Wilson (Borough of Sunderland), 4:26.98. 200m breaststroke: 1, R Maden (Rochdale Aquabears), 2:14.88; 2, N Polkinghorne (Kelly College), 2:15.41; 3, R Lawson (Aus), 2:15.83. 50m backstroke: 1, M Harris (Barnet Copthall), 25.87sec (British record); 2, M Jones (City of Southampton), 27.12; 3, C Kapp (Swiss Cottage Camden), 27.27. 200m butterfly: 1, T Jones (City of Southampton), 2:00.55; 2, S Dale (Aus), 2:02.23; 3, J Sieben (Aus), 2:03.39. 100m freestyle: 1, M Fibbens (Barnet Copthall), 49.11; 2, M Jones (City of Southampton), 50.18; 3, G Bulpitt (Harrow & Wealdstone), 50.73.

Women: 400m freestyle: 1, R Gilfillan (City of Dundee), 4:12.54; 2, B Ayre (Aus), 4:14.54; 3, 4:15.85 (Welsh record). 50m backstroke: 1, S Page (Mercury Wigan Wasps), 29.24 (British record); 2, K Read (Barnet Copthall), 29.86; 3, E Tattam (Bracknell), 30.27. 100m butterfly: 1, J Major (Aus), 1:02.32; 2, C Foot (City of Southampton), 1:02.54; 3, A Dully (Derwentside), 1:03.57. 200m breaststroke: 1, L Findlay (Kelly College), 2:33.94; 2, L Rogers (City of Bristol), 2:34.72; 3, J Woodward (City of Bristol), 2:35.04. 200m freestyle: 1, A Sheppard (Mingrelia), 28.18; 2, C Covington (Bracknell), 28.88; 3, C Foot (City of Southampton), 28.89.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Gregory stands out as defiance folds

By KEITH MACKLIN

Wigan	32
Bradford Northern	2

FOR 39 minutes Bradford Northern threw everything at Wigan in a desperate attempt to stave off inevitable defeat. They tackled with a mixture of ferocity and desperation, refused to give way to incessant pressure, and held out hopes of a surprise. That was until just seconds before half-time.

With the scores level at 2-2, Northern relaxed their vigilance at a play-the-ball near their own line and the Wigan hooker, Dermott, seized his chance to wriggle over the line. Botica kicked the goal and when the Northern players retreated to the dressing-room, it was with the demeanour of men who knew that hope had gone.

Northern came to Central Park without the injured Wilkinson and Summers, and knew that their only chance of victory was to put a few points together and then tackle for survival. Once Wigan were in front and saw daylight that hope had gone.

Nevertheless, it took Wigan some nerve-racking moments to put things together in the second half. When they did so the inspiration came from the scrum half, Andy Gregory. His pass to Bell enabled Botica to squeeze in at the corner and then Gregory himself produced one of the most impudent tries of his career. Taking a pass just outside the 22-metre line, he headed towards the corner flag, sold a couple of outrageous dummies to fool the cover defence and went over himself.

Minutes later, a Gregory shimmy on the Wigan 22 opened up a gap for the big centre, Iro, to gallop 70 metres, and in the last minute, with the issue settled, Bell went in for the final try.

A crowd of 17,752 roared Wigan towards yet another semi-final appearance. Most people within the game are hoping, with all due respect to St Helens and Oldham, that tonight's draw will keep Wigan away from Widnes.

SCORERS: WIGAN: Tries: Dermott, Botica, Gregory, Iro, Bell. Goals: Botica (6). BRADFORD NORTHERN: Goal: Hobbs.

WIGAN: S Hampson; D Myers (sub: J Lydon), K Iro, D Bell, F Botica; S Edwards, A Gregory; I Lucas, M Dermott, K Skerrett, D Betts, A Platt (sub: P Clarke), E Hanley.

BRADFORD NORTHERN: R Simpson; G Cordle (sub: T Marchant), D Shelford, S McGowan, H Gumbs; S Barnett, J Pendlebury; D Hobbs, B Noble, J Hamer, C Richards (sub: D Croft), P Medley, K Fairbank.

Referee: J Holdsworth (Leeds).

Halifax hopes go west

ANOTHER dismal semi-final weekend for clubs east of the Pennines saw Widnes, St Helens and Oldham complete the pairings for the semi-finals of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup (Keith Macklin writes).

Halifax and Bradford Northern were the two remaining Yorkshire contenders and while Northern were being humbled at Wigan a powerful Saints rally put paid to a gallant effort by the second division promotion candidates, Halifax.

The Yorkshiremen led 16-10 at one point in the first half, but St Helens sneaked ahead with a try close to half-time, and another try by Quirk, followed by a Loughlin goal, stretched the Saints lead to 24-16.

The other second division club, Salford, who are unbeaten in their own division, suffered an ignominious exit at Oldham. They were hammered 40-3, with Oldham running in seven tries and landing six goals shared between Platt and Atkinson.

On Saturday Widnes took heavy toll of errors by Warrington to win convincingly at Wilderspool. Widnes got the only try of the first half when the New Zealand forward, Faimalo, brushed off several tacklers to send in David Hulme.

In the second half two interceptions turned the game completely the way of Widnes. The first was picked up by Currier from a long O'Sullivan pass, and then Offiah nipped in between Drummond and Thorniley to romp away. Warrington scored two late tries but they were no more than consolation.

YACHTING

Life-saver given hero's welcome

From BARRY PICKTHALL, IN PUNTE DEL ESTE, URUGUAY

BERTIE Reed, the BOC singlehanded round the world race competitor who rescued his fellow South African, John Martin, from his sinking yacht deep in the Southern Ocean last month, received a hero's welcome on arrival here early yesterday.

Despite crossing the finish line of this 7,200 mile stage around Cape Horn from Sydney shortly after 3am, a crowd of 200, shouting "Bertie, Bertie, Bertie" left the craggy veteran of two earlier solo circumnavigations, overwhelmed.

"I was lucky to get John," Reed said. "I didn't realise he had got into his life-raft until after I had circled his boat. By that time, the rope holding the raft had broken and John had been blown away down-wind. I lost sight of the raft several times." Martin, who had been picked off Reed's yacht by a Chilean naval vessel shortly before rounding Cape Horn, was first to congratulate his friend's fast passage.

Reed was followed across the line during the next six hours by five more competitors, led by the French yachtswomen, Isabelle Autissier, and Kanga Birtles, the Australian who left his seaboats on the dock-side at Sydney and kept his feet dry by wearing a succession of polythene bags over his socks.

☐ Yuko Tada, the Japanese taxi driver who retired from the BOC race in Australia, was found dead at his apartment in Sydney on Saturday. Police believe his death was suicide.

RESULT: Third stage (from Sydney to Punta del Este). Class 1: 1, General Concorde (A Gautier, Fr), Sidays Snr 21min; 2, Groupe Sceta (C Auguin, Fr), 32-13:39; 3, Innkeeper (D Adams, Aus), 33:02:23; 4, Duracell (M Plant, US), 33:08:53; 5, Gitnaker (B Reed, SA), 35:04:10; 6, Ezurreuil FC (I Autissier, Fr), 35:05:17; 7, BSV Expo '92 (J Ugarte, Sp), 36:06:07; 8, Alba Regia (N Fa, Hun), 36:07:10; 9, Jarkan (K Birtles, Aus), 36:07:27; 10, Credit Agricole (P Jeantot, Fr) 35:10:31. Overall (after three stages: 1, General Concorde, 96:10:59; 2, Groupe Sceta, 97:08:25; 3, Duracell, 102:19:12.

ROWING

Winning combination

THAMES RC were toppled from their premier position in the Mortlake to Putney women's head of the river race on Saturday by a combined crew of Dutch, British and American internationals (Mike Rosewell writes).

There were four world medal winners on board, including the Dutch stroke, Rita de Yong, and the American Olympic sculler, Anne Marden.

RESULTS: 1, University of London/Nereus/Thames Tradesmen/Oke-anos/Tideway Scullers/Norwich, 19min 22sec (Open winners); 2, Tideway Scullers, 19.27 (Club winners); 3, Thames Tradesmen, 19.29; 4, Nottingham County, 19.37; 5, Thames, 19.41; 6, London University, 19.42 (University winners); 7, Kingston, 19.48; 8, Rob Roy, 19.50 (Senior one winners); 9, Osiris (Oxford), 20.02 (Senior two winners); 10, Upper Thames, 20.09. Other Divisional Winners: Senior Three: Osiris B, 20.18; Overseas Winner: Bonner Ruder Gesellschaft (Ger), 20.36. Veteran A: Kingston, 20.59. Junior: Kingston/Lady Eleanor Holles, 20.59. Junior 18: Lady Eleanor Holles, 21.07.

IN BRIEF

Mason in top ten

DESPITE his defeat by Lennox Lewis in a world championship contest, Gary Mason is ranked at No 10 in the world heavyweight rankings by the World Boxing Association.

Lewis is at No 1 in the WBA list, while Mason remains the No 1 challenger to Evander Holyfield.

FENCING: Ian Williams of London Thames, regained the British men's sabre championship when he beat Nick Fletcher, of Bristol University, 5-1, 6-5 at Stalybridge.

HANG GLIDING: Robbie Whittall, of Leeds, won the fifth task of the final stages of the world championship at Governador Valadares, Brazil, to give Britain a commanding lead in the team event.

BOWLS: St Neots won the Yetton Trophy for the second time when they beat King George Field, Surrey, 88-62.

MOTOR SPORT: Hideaki Myoshi, of Japan, won the Vauxhall Sport Rally in North Wales and leads the Mintex national championship by seven points.

CRICKET: Western Province clinched the South African Currie Cup in their centenary year with seven bonus points against Free State on Saturday.

MOTOR SPORT: Carlos Sainz, the world champion, won the Portuguese rally to extend his lead in the 1991 rankings.

BOWLS: Nick Cammack, of Boston, won the English Indoor Bowling Association under-25 singles title

☐ Gill Clark and her new Danish partner, Anette Nielsen, beat Catrine and Maria Bengtsson in the final of the Swedish Open.

RACKETS: James Male retained his world title after an enthralling battle with Shannon Hazell at Queen's Club.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

Seville: world indoor championships

Men

200 METRES: First round: Qualifiers: Heat one: 1, N Antonov (Bul), 20.89sec; 2, P Stevens (Bel), 21.15; 3, D Council (US), 21.37. Heat two: 1, A Fedoriv (USSR), 21.20; 2, A Mafe (Nig), 21.21; 3, P Ter Beek (Ned), 21.37. Heat three: 1, D Troy (Barr), 21.54. Heat three: 1, S Floris (B), 21.74; 2, F Ratzenberger (Austria), 21.84. Heat four: 1, L Christie (GB), 21.36; 2, D Colocaru (Rom), 21.42; 3, J Valk (Cz), 21.69; 4, D Jules (Trin), 21.73. Heat five: 1, T Jefferson (US), 21.12; 2, P Cotano (It), 21.22; 3, L Rodrigues (P), 21.43. Heat six: 1, M A Gomez (Sp), 21.26; 2, E Perrot (Fr), 21.48. Semi-finals: Heat one: 1, Antonov, 20.83; 2, Mafe, 20.86; 3, Floris, 21.17; 4, Ratzenberger, 21.21; 5, Council, 21.74; 6, Jules, 21.91. Heat two: 1, Christie, 21.12; 2, Jefferson, 21.19; 3, Stevens, 21.33; 4, Perrot, 21.43; 5, Rodriguez, 21.67; 6, Valk, 22.41. Heat three: 1, Gomez, 21.09; 2, Fedoriv, 21.19; 3, Cotaino, 21.36; 4, Colocaru, 21.41; 5, Fischer, 21.73; 6, Douglas, 21.76. Heat: 1, Antonov, 20.87; 2, Christie, 21.12; 3, Mafe, 21.20; 4, Jefferson, 21.13; 5, Gomez, 21.29; 6, Fedoriv, 21.55.

400 METRES: Semi-finals: Heat one: 1, D Morris (Jam), 46.30sec; 2, C Jenkins (US), 46.55; 3, C Comet (Sp), 46.69; 4, A Kaabane (Mor), 47.05; 5, M Garner (Aus), 47.09. Heat two: 1, S Kitur (Ken), 46.40; 2, I Barnard (NZ), 46.62; 3, A Daniel (Trin), 47.02; 4, P Greene (Aus), 47.22; 5, R Pierre (US), 47.51; 6, A Sanchez (Sp), 47.59. Heat: 1, Morris, 46.17; 2, Kitur, 46.21; 3, Comet, 46.52; 4, Jenkins, 47.18; 5, Barnard, 47.84; Daniel, did not finish.

800 METRES: Semi-finals: Heat one: 1, T De Grasse (Bel), 1min 48.88sec; 2, P Ehrle (Ger), 1:48.96; 3, S Hoogewerf (Can), 1:50.04; 4, A Sudnik (USSR), 1:50.08; 5, A Baloussman (Alg), 1:50.18; 6, P Bartosik (Austria), 1:53.12. Heat two: 1, M Tanui (Ken), 1:47.74; 2, T Ahlden (Can), 1:48.17; 3, P Kipkoech (Ken), 1:48.24; 4, M Thompson (Bah), 1:48.40; 5, M Steele (GB), 1:48.77; 6, P Squelle (Chile), 1:50.80. Final: 1, Ehrle, 1:47.08; 2, De Tersea, 1:47.85; 3, Hoogewerf, 1:47.88; 4, Andrade, 1:47.89; 5, Ahlden, 1:48.06; Tanui, dsq.

1,500 METRES: Final: 1, N Noroski (Alg), finish 4:01.53sec; 2, F Cacho (Sp), 3:42.89; 3, M Silva (Por), 3:43.85; 4, M O'Sullivan (Ire), 3:45.22; 5, H Kutler (Neth), 3:45.53; 6, J Atkinson (US), 3:46.29; 7, M Busch (Ger), 3:46.72; 8, A Sabulskis, 3:47.04; 9, T Horgan (US), 3:47.19; 10, S Mainlow (USSR), 3:48.72.

3,000 METRES: Final: 1, F O'Mara (Ire), 7:41.14; 2, H Boutayeb (Mor), 7:43.64; 3, R Denmark (GB), 7:48.90; 4, M Goldberg (Ger), 7:44.76; 5, J Scherer (US), 7:45.14; 6, P Thirlwell (NZ), 7:47.07; 7, J J Gonzalez (Sp), 7:48.44; 8, M Mamaliotos (Phaenix), 7:48.52; 9, J Nevarrete (Col), 7:48.98; 10, Rob De Brouwer (Neth), 7:51.66.

4 x 400 METRES RELAY: Final: 1, Germany, 3min 0.5sec; 2, United States, 3:00.24; 3, Italy, 3:05.51; 4, Australia, 3:05.65; 5, Soviet Union, 3:09.20; 6, Jamaica, 3:10.33.

60 METRES HURDLES: First round: Qualifiers: Heat one: 1, M McKoy (Can), 7.56sec; 2, S Usov (USSR), 7.75; 3, A Parker (Jam), 7.77; 4, T Ventura (Can), 7.78. Heat two: 1, R Foster (Jam), 7.74; 2, A Kennov (USSR), 7.76; 3, H Pohland (Ger), 7.79. Heat three: 1, G Foster (US), 7.58; 2, E Valle (Cuba), 7.59; 3, P Wojcik (Pol), 7.76; 4, J Hudec (Cz), 7.77; 5, D Phillips (Jam), 7.78; 6, J Nelson (US), 7.82; 7, P Pierre (Fr), 7.98; 8, N Walker (GB), 7.72; 4, H Foster (Austria), 7.77. Semi-finals: Heat one: 1, Foster, 7.44; 2, Valle, 7.50; 3, Borol, 7.60; 4, Usov, 7.69; 5, Kearns, 7.69; 6, Wojcik, 7.73; 7, Phillips, 7.77; 8, Jones, 7.84. Heat two: 1, McKoy, 7.46; 2, Kennov, 7.58; 3, Tourret, 7.59; 4, Pierre, 7.91; 5, Walker, 7.95; 6, Hudec, 7.97; 7, Pohland, 7.73; 8, Root, 7.76. Heat: 1, Foster, 7.48; 2, Kennov, 7.47; 3, McKoy, 7.54; 4, Ventura, 7.69; 5, Usov, 7.69; 6, Pohland (Ger), 7.73. Heat three: 1, G Foster (US), 7.55; 2, E Valle (Cuba), 7.59; 3, P Wojcik (Pol), 7.70; 4, J Hudec (Cz), 7.71; 5, D Phillips (Jam), 7.75. Heat four: 1, J Pierce (US), 7.82; 2, P Tourret (Fr), 7.86; 3, N Walker (GB), 7.72; 4, H Root (Austria), 7.77. Semi-finals: Heat one: 1, Foster, 7.44; 2, Valle, 7.50; 3, Borol, 7.60; 4, Usov, 7.69; 5, Kearns, 7.69; 6, Wojcik, 7.73; 7, Phillips, 7.77; 8, Jones, 7.84. Heat two: 1, McKoy, 7.46; 2, Kennov, 7.58; 3, Tourret, 7.59; 4, Pierre, 7.91; 5, Walker, 7.95; 6, Hudec, 7.97; 7, Pohland, 7.73; 8, Root, 7.76. Heat: 1, Foster, 7.48; 2, Kennov, 7.47; 3, McKoy, 7.54; 4, Ventura, 7.69; 5, Usov, 7.69; 6, Pohland (Ger), 7.73. Heat three: 1, G Foster (US), 7.55; 2, E Valle (Cuba), 7.59; 3, P Wojcik (Pol), 7.70; 4, J Hudec (Cz), 7.71; 5, D Phillips (Jam), 7.75. Heat four: 1, J Pierce (US), 7.82; 2, P Tourret (Fr), 7.86; 3, N Walker (GB), 7.72; 4, H Root (Austria), 7.77. Semi-finals: Heat one: 1, G Borol (Cz), 19:48.82; 4, R Weigel (Ger), 19:48.79; 5, J McDonald (Eire), 20:04.11; 6, J Perez (Col), 20:19.91. Heat two: 1, G De Benedictis (It), 19:54.28; 2, S Urbanik (Hun), 19:56.44; 3, M Schamuhlow (USSR), 19:56.55; 4, V Massana (Sp), 19:57.46; 5, B Gommel (Ger), 19:57.59; 6, A Jenkins (Aus), 20:00.04. Britain's two qualifiers failed to finish in heat one. Final: 1, Schamuhlow, 19:23.55 (world record); 2, De Benedictis, 19:25.90; 3, Kostyakovich, 19:47.05; 4, Prieto, 19:55.85; 5, Massana, 19:06.76; 6, Urbanik, 19:11.95; 7, Gommel, 20:21.87; 8, McDonald, 19:24.91; 9, Weigel, 19:34.84; 10, Perez, 20:19.91; Kollar and Jachno, dsq.

Women

800 METRES: First round: Qualifiers: Heat one: 1, G Breuer (Ger), 23.49sec; 2, F Fisher (Fr), 23.59; 3, C Mondie-Milner (US), 23.64. Heat two: 1, I Semyonova (USSR), 23.22; 2, P Dalton (Jam), 23.76. Heat three: 1, M Otley (Jam), 23.39; 2, A Williams (Trin), 23.75. Heat four: 1, G Malchugina (USSR), 23.77; 2, S Olsen (Nor), 24.01. Heat five: 1, A Thomas (Ger), 22.95; 2, S Hanbijoki (Fin), 23.06; 3, R Kubosova (Cz), 23.73. Semi-finals: Heat one: 1, Otley, 22.54; 2, Thomas, 22.96; 3, Malchugina, 23.07; 4, Davis, 23.58; 5, Williams, 23.66; 6, Kubelova, 23.74. Heat two: 1, Sergeyeva, 22.86; 2, Breuer, 23.10; 3, Hanbijoki, 23.55; 4, Fisher, 23.85; 5, Mondie-Milner, 23.73; 6, Olsen, 24.70. Final: 1, Otley, 22.24 (Jamaica world record); 2, Sergeyeva, 22.41; 3, Breuer, 22.52; 4, Thomas, 22.84; 5, Malchugina, 23.20; 6, Hanbijoki, 24.10.

400 METRES: Semi-finals: Heat one: 1, S Myers (Sp), 52.16sec; 2, J Miles (US), 52.43; 3, I Dziriguova (USSR), 52.64; 4, V Spanoc-Gardner (Aus), 52.84; 5, R Eilch (Can), 54.51; N Baton (Hun), did not finish. Heat two: 1, D Dixon (US), 51.97; 2, A Yurchenko (USSR), 52.14; 3, A Prost (Switz), 52.19; 4, K Schreiter (Ger), 53.06; 5, A Cacia (Can), 53.40; 6, J Martins (Port), 53.51. Final: 1, Dixon, 50.04; 2, Myers, 50.89; 3, Prost, 51.41; 4, Yurchenko, 51.85; 5, Miles, 52.00; 6, Dahlgalova, 52.19.

800 METRES: Semi-finals: Heat one: 1, C Wachtel (Ger), 2min 01.70sec; 2, E Kovacs (Rom), 2:01.75; 3, M Rainey (US), 2:02.15; 4, A Lapshin (USSR), 2:02.55; 5, D Burlamonte (Austria), 2:05.51; 6, M Ryan (Pol), 2:09.54. Heat two: 1, V Beslea (Rom), 2:01.44; 2, L Gurina (USSR), 2:01.48; 3, C Crooks (Can), 2:01.68; 4, J Clark (US), 2:02.08; 5, G Leach (Jam), 2:02.28; 6, B Stewart (Jam), 2:03.08. Heat: 1, Wachtel, 2:01.51; 2, Beslea, 2:01.75; 3, Kovacs, 2:01.78; 4, Gurina, 2:02.04; 5, Crooks, 2:02.27; 6, Rainey, 2:04.82.

1,500 METRES: Heats: Qualifiers: Heat one: 1, D Mullins (Can), finish 11.7sec; 2, I Lobanova (Ru), 4:11.95; 3, Y Mai (Sw), 4:12.04; 4, G Procaccio (US), 4:12.17; 5, J White (GB), 4:12.39. Heat two: 1, T Chidu (Rom), 4:09.27; 2, A Hill (US), 4:09.45; 3, L Napochova (USSR), 4:09.48; 4, E Kolesnikova (Ger), 4:10.25; 5, Y Van der Kooi (Neth), 4:10.40. Britain non-qualifiers: J Daring, ninth in heat two, 4:13.10. Final: 1, Rogachova, 4:06.09; 2, Kubesova, 4:06.22; 3, Chidu, 4:06.27; 4, Mallett, 4:06.87; 5, Van der Kooi, 4:06.89; 6, Mai, 4:07.20; 7, Hill, 4:08.54; 8, Procaccio, 4:10.51; 9, White, 4:20.72; Kiesling, did not start.

3000 METRES: Final: 1, M P Duroe (Fr), finish 8:50.85sec; 2, M Keszeg (Rom), 8:51.31; 3, L Sabourova (Ru), 8:51.47; 4, A Dias (Por), 8:55.45; 5, C Bunell (Fin), 8:55.11; 6, R Marois (Fr), 8:59.20; 7, C Mai (Ger), 8:55.59; 8, S McGeorge (Sco), 8:58.57; 9, E Van Blunk (US), 8:58.23; 10, Ely Van Hulst (Neth), 9:05.18.

4 x 400 METRES RELAY: Final: 1, Germany, 3min 27.22sec (world record); 2, Soviet Union, 3:27.95; 3, United States, 3:29.00; 4, Spain, 3:31.89; 5, France, 3:34.06.

80 METRES HURDLES: Heats: Qualifiers: Heat one: 1, L Narozhilenko (USSR), 8.00sec; 2, K McKenzie (GB), 8.07; 3, S Dettler (Ger), 8.07; 4, L Dunkley (GB), 8.22; 5, M O'Mara (Ire), 8.25. Heat two: 1, A Piquereau (Fr), 7.98; 2, M Pogacean (Rom), 8.00; 3, B Bukowa (Yug), 8.16; 4, L-A Skaare (Nor), 8.17. Heat three: 1, L Yurkova (USSR), 8.04; 2, K Patzwahl (Ger), 8.11; 3, L Bastien (Fra), 8.15; 4, L Fenech (Swe), 8.21. Heat four: 1, M Ewanje-Epee (Fr), 7.96; 2, C Zaczkiewicz (Ger), 8.22; 3, A Lopez (Cuba), 8.22. Semi-finals: Heat one: 1, Ewanje-Epee, 7.80; 2, Pogacean, 8.00; 3, Yurkova, 8.09; 4, Lopez, 8.19; 5, Bukowa, 8.19; 6, Bastien, 8.19; 7, Dominguez, 8.55; 8, Zaczkiewicz, 8.30. Heat two: 1, Narozhilenko, 7.98; 2, Piquereau, 7.98; 3, Adams, 8.02; 4, McKenzie, 8.02; 5, Patzwahl, 8.10; 6, Nestrasa, 8.18; 7, Dettler, 8.21; 8, Fraser, 8.24. Final: 1, Narozhilenko, 7.88; 2, Ewanje-Epee, 7.90; 3, Lopez, 8.03; 4, Yurkova, 8.03; 5, Piquereau, 8.04; 6, Pogacean, 8.04; 7, McKenzie, 8.06; 8, Adams, 8.11.

HIGH JUMP: Final: 1, H Henkel (Ger), 2.00sec; 2, T Bykova (USSR), 1.97; 3, H Balck (Ger), 1.94; 4, Y Henry (US), 1.91; 5, D Mint (GB), 1.91; equal 6, Y Rodina (USSR) and D Jancowicz (Pol), 1.85; equal 8, S Leavers (Aus) and O Lima (Sp), 1.85; 10, B Holub (Pol), 1.85; 11, A Bradburn (US), 1.80; 12, H Haugland (Nor), 1.80.

LONG JUMP: Final: 1, L Berezhnaya (USSR), 6.84m; 2, H Drechsler (Ger), 6.82; 3, M Ilic (Ron), 6.74; 4, I Kravets (USSR), 6.66; 5, N Montalvo (Cuba), 6.65; 6, N Stolnes (Aus), 6.58; 7, V Uschbacka (It), 6.58; 8, C Lewis (US), 6.55; 9, M Dufgaui (Qtar), 6.52; 10, R Pytlinska-Nikiejuk (Den), 6.48; 11, C Greiner (US), 6.38; 12, R Repo (Fin), 6.32.

SHOT: Final: 1, Xianai Sui (China), 20.84m; 2, Zhilong Huang (China), 20.36; 3, N Lisovskaya (USSR), 20.00; 4, B Stopp (Ger), 19.45; 5, B Loza (Cuba), 19.01; 6, K Nolanda (Ger), 18.94; 7, O Kempobolova (USSR), 18.77; 8, V Nikolayeva (USSR), 12.09; 9, E Cono (Sp), 12.46; 10, O Barsheva (Sp), 12.54; 11, R Zelinkova (Cz), 12.58; 12, S V Hansen (Den), 12.58; 13, M Lemaire (Fra), 12.24; 14, K Born (Ger) and A-R Skiod (Sp), dsq.

TRIPLE JUMP (non-championship): Final: 1, I Kravets (USSR), 14.44m (world record); 2, Huirong Li (China), 13.92; 3, S Bogarova (Rus), 13.82; 4, T Lebedeva (Rus), 13.67; 5, Ivanova (Por), 13.22; 6, O G Iacob (Rom), 13.09.

LIVERPOOL: General Portcullis road relay: 1, Warrington, 1hr 19min 22sec; 2, Salford, 1:16:31; 3, Stretford, 1:16:43. Fastest laps: D Lewis (Rossendale), 18min 09sec; L Mathews (Salford), 18.09; A Green (Warrington), 18:12.

FUKUOKA: Women's international cross-country: Men: 1, V Chesnokov (Ger), 35min 34sec; 2, W Koegel (Ger), 35:51; 3, C Nord (Ger), 35:52. Women: 1, E McColgan (GB), 19:04; 2, D Asiago (Ken), 19:09; 3, C Schauwiow (Aus), 19:38.

HASTINGS: Half-marathon: 1, F Emms (Bridgnorth), 1hr 03min 30sec; 2, C Robison (Orpington, Derbys), 1:03:46; 3, S Nash (Tonbridge), 1:04:04; 4, N Rose (Bristol), 1:04:15; 5, K Forster (Vale), 1:04:46. Team: Hastings.

EQUESTRIANISM

DORTMUND: Volvo World Cup qualifier: 1, Norton De

● RUGBY UNION 30
● RACING 31
● FOOTBALL 32, 33

SPORT

Gascoigne remains the golden asset

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Tottenham Hotspur 2
Notts County 1

PAUL Gascoigne, persistently the subject of huge transfer deals, continues to give a convincing impression that he would rather contribute to Tottenham Hotspur's grave financial position by staying at the club. Almost single-handedly, he has led them along a lucrative path in the FA Cup to the semi-final.

He scored twice against Oxford United in the fourth round, twice against Portsmouth in the fifth round and hit the winner against Notts County in the sixth round at White Hart Lane yesterday. Without him, Tottenham's troubled season would already be meandering aimlessly to an empty conclusion.

Tottenham's semi-final opponents will be Arsenal on April 14. The venue will be decided today, although Stamford Bridge is the likely choice. In the other semi-final, Nottingham Forest will play the winners of the West Ham-Everton match tonight.

There is no certainty that Gascoigne will be able to complete his apparent mission to take his club to Wembley. After a thorough examination today, it may be decided that he should undergo a double hernia operation immediately.

"I wouldn't rule that out," Terry Venables, Tottenahm's manager, said. "He's on a high now, so we'll wait until the morning to make an assessment, when things have settled down. But each time he plays, it is taking him a day longer to recover."

Venables revealed that although he was prepared to gamble on Gascoigne's fragile fitness, he could not risk him in his usual arduous and tiring midfield role. In the first half, pursued throughout by Harding, he acted as Lineker's partner in the front line.

The plan, enforced by the circumstances, suited neither Gascoigne nor Tottenham. With Allen and Nayim lost on either flank, the creative responsibility was carried by Stewart and Mitchell Thomas. All of the bright ideas before the interval were consequently fashioned by Notts County, especially by the enterprising Draper.

Dean Thomas clipped a post and Mabbutt headed Bartlett's shot off the line in the opening minutes. Notts County, sustaining the pressure, merited the lead they took in the 41st minute. They were assisted by Gascoigne, who was needlessly decorative on the edge of his own area.

The ball spun off the tigerish Harding to O'Reardon, whose thunderous left-footed drive was described by Venebles as "sensational and miraculous". The sweeper and reserve team coach, who made his debut on the same ground as a substitute for Charlie George for Derby County, received a facial wound, so unrestrained were the subsequent joyful celebrations.

They lasted for only 10 minutes until Short inadvertently deflected in Nayim's cross-shot. Gascoigne dropped back and his initial impact was made high on the cheekbone of Harding, who had tried to pull him back by the shirt. For his efforts, he received the point of an elbow in his face.

Semi-final draw

Nottm For v W Ham or Everton
Tottenham v Arsenal
Ties to be played April 14

"I didn't mean to elbow the guy," Gascoigne said. "I was just trying to get away from him." In the 82nd minute, on one of the few occasions when he was able to lose his shadow, he made a more appealing contribution in his otherwise uninspired afternoon.

Tottenham, more productive once Samways and Walsh had been introduced, had stretched Notts County's goalkeeper through Stewart, Walsh, Samways (whose effort was disallowed) and even Dean Thomas, with a startling, hurried and firm backpass. The central defenders were eventually to cause the decisive moment of confusion.

Mabbutt and Sedgley attempted to exchange passes on the edge of Notts County's area but the ball broke instead for Gascoigne, lurking on the left. After sweeping it past Cherry, he sprinted towards Tottenham's dugout before being submerged underneath a mound of grateful and relieved colleagues.

Later, they discovered that the occasion which would have been relished by Venables and George Graham, a north London derby in the final, is to be staged prematurely. Tottenham and Arsenal have been involved in a couple of goalless draws already this season.

☐ Brian Clough, the Notingham Forest manager, who has yet to win the FA Cup in 25 years of trying, yesterday warned his side to forget all about Wembley. He wants Forest to concentrate on their League position. They are twelfth and Clough warned: "It's about time we improved matters."

Through to his third FA Cup semi-final in four years, Clough has not finished below twelfth in the first division table since taking Forest back into the top flight in 1977.

"We are very proud of reaching six semi-finals in various competitions over the last four years, but cups have always been a bonus," he said.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



One kick nearer to Wembley: Gascoigne scoring the winner against Notts County that ensured Tottenham's place in the FA Cup semi-final

MATCH FACTS

At White Hart Lane. Att: 29,686. Ref: P Foakes
FA Cup record v Notts County: W2, D1, L1.

HT: 0-1. **TOTTENHAM 2** **NOTTS COUNTY 1**
Scorers: Nayim 51, Gascoigne 83 — O'Riordan 41
Bookings: - -
Subs: Walsh, Samways 64 (Nayim, M Thomas) — Paris 87 (O'Riordan)

	TOTTENHAM		NOTTS COUNTY	
Shots (on target/total)	11	17	8	9
Corners (left/right)	1	4	0	3
Crosses (left/right)	7	15	7	9
Free kicks/pens conceded	8	-	24	-
Offsides		3		15
Possession (gained/lost)	39	102	44	102

TOTTENHAM (4-4-2)

Player	Goal attempt	Crosses L	Crosses R	Fouls By	Fouls On
Thorstvedt	-	-	-	1	-
Edinburgh	-	3	-	-	3
Van Den Hauwe	1	-	4	1	1
Sedgley	-	-	-	-	-
Nayim	2	-	1	-	3
Mabbutt	-	-	1	1	-
Stewart	1	-	4	-	2
Gascoigne	3	2	2	1	6
M Thomas	-	1	-	-	-
Lineker	5	-	-	-	4
Allen	4	-	2	-	3
Walsh	1	-	1	1	-
Samways	-	1	-	2	-

NOTTS COUNTY (5-3-2)

Player	Goal attempt	Crosses L	Crosses R	Fouls By	Fouls On
Cherry	-	-	-	-	-
Palmer	1	-	-	3	1
Harding	-	-	-	7	2
Short	-	-	-	3	-
Yates	1	-	-	1	2
O'Riordan	1	-	3	-	-
D Thomas	2	4	-	3	-
Turner	1	3	2	1	1
Bartlett	1	-	2	3	-
Lund	1	-	-	-	-
Draper	1	-	2	2	-
Paris	-	-	-	-	-

Unused: Johnson.

● Compiled by Julian Desborough.

Tottenham may accept offer

TOTTENHAM Hotspur could this week receive an offer for Paul Gascoigne which they feel is too good to refuse (Stuart Jones writes). Gian Marco Calleri, the president of Lazio, is expected to travel to London tomorrow to negotiate a possible deal for the England international midfield player.

The price he has in mind is reportedly £7 million but Tottenham, whose debts amount to more than £20 million, will be tempted to raise it perhaps towards double the sum they received from Marseille for Chris Waddle. He broke the British transfer record when he left for £4.5 million.

Terry Venables, the Tottenham manager who resisted Waddle's proposed move until he felt that the club could not decline the offer, said: "As I have said all week, I know nothing about this. As far as I am concerned it is all speculation."

Venables also preferred not to comment on the consortium, in which he is involved, that will this week attempt to take over the club.

Venables and a group of businessmen, believed to include Larry Gillick, a property developer, and Tony Berry, a director of the club, may announce their bid on Wednesday.

They must convince the chairman, Irving Scholar, and the Stock Exchange takeover panel that they have the necessary financial backing. Scholar says he would leave rather than oversee the sale

Hendry dispels fear of failure

By Steve Acteson

STEPHEN Hendry has won seven of ten important tournaments to be contested so far this season, collecting £595,000 in the process while also becoming the first player to win five world ranking events in one term. This is not a bad record for someone who feared he would have a poor season.

The Scot was genuinely concerned that he might suffer a psychological backlash after winning the world championship for the first time last spring. But instead he has used that triumph as a spring-board to enormous success and in Rotterdam today he plays Mark Johnston-Allen for a place in the last eight of the European Open, a title Hendry has twice failed to win.

Hendry said: "I honestly worried that after winning the world title I would have a bad season. I've seen it happen to people before — look at Joe Johnson — and although, I wasn't panicking, I dreaded the thought that people might think I was just a one-season wonder. To have won so much has relieved the pressure on me, and although I didn't think I could have a better season than the last one, I'm actually on course to do just that."

After two years in France, the event has been switched to The Netherlands and carries a first prize of £35,000, but is bereft of its defending title holder, John Parrott, who was eliminated at the qualifying stage along with Jimmy White.

French duo change their tune

From John Hennessy
in Munich

CHRISTOPHER Dean's ice dance protegés, Isabelle and Paul Duchesnay, of France, have dropped a bombshell on the threshold of the world championships here this week.

They have ditched the free programme, which took them to second place in the European championships at Sofia in January and returned to their theme of last season. That was based on political repression in South America.

Dean, Isabelle Duchesnay's fiance, said yesterday: "The European programme didn't come off, perhaps because the piano accompaniment was a mistake." It had not evoked the warm reaction that skaters need.

To change a programme between championships may not be unprecedented but it hints of a certain desperation. "You're crazy," was Isabelle's first response when the need for change was put to her. Dean maintains, however, that the seven weeks they have had to dream up a new programme is perfectly adequate.

Although they use the same kind of panpipe music, this is a new programme, almost in the form of a serial. The free dance is to be held on Friday evening.

Tomba clinches title

ASPEN, Colorado (Reuter) — Alberto Tomba, of Italy, held off Rudolf Nierlich, of Austria, with some comfort here on Saturday to win the World Cup giant slalom race and thus sew up this season's championship.

After a first run that put him more than a second ahead of the field, Tomba finished with a time of 2min 11.92sec, well ahead of Nierlich, who clocked 2min 12.39sec. Marc Girardelli, of Luxembourg, was third in 2min 12.98sec.

It is Tomba's first World Cup title since 1988, the same year in which he also won two Olympic gold medals.

Results, page 33

Bulgarian powers past Christie

From David Powell
Athletics Correspondent
Seville

LINFORD Christie, who had come to the third world indoor championships here seeking to be the first athlete to achieve a sprint double, had to settle for a pair of silver medals after being beaten in the 200 metres yesterday.

This event was to have provided compensation for his defeat in the 60 metres on Friday but now, as then, he was upstaged by a young man making his first impact in the senior international arena.

Had you put money on Christie before the athletes came on to the track, you would have wanted to wager more after three false starts; while Christie took each one phlegmatically, channelling his concentration, the Bulgarian who was to win, Nikolay Antanov, looked edgy. Before the first, he was clearly disturbed by an official checking the position of his feet in the blocks and after the third he came back shaking his head.

Once away, though, from lane four he had Christie in his sights outside in five; he picked up ground down the back straight but won it in the last 20 metres with the sheer power of his finish. Arms aloft, eyes to the roof, he set out on his lap of honour while Christie bended over, hands on knees. The Bulgarian had previously won two European indoor silver medals but this was his first championship gold.

In the 60 metres, Christie had lost to a 22-year-old he had recently beaten; now, in the 200 metres, it happened again. Andre Cason, the 60 metres champion, was beaten by Christie last weekend; Antonov lost to Christie in Ghent three weeks ago, by a comfortable margin. The Bulgarian had demonstrated his potential in January, however, by running Michael Johnson close in Lievin and setting a national record of 20.62. Here he recorded 20.67, Christie 20.72.

Ade Mafe, who shares Christie's coach, Ron Roddan, was third in 20.92. Christie's disappointment leaves Britain with only one gold medal from three indoor world championships, ironically at 200 metres. John Regis, who triumphed in 1989, chose not to defend his title.

But Robert Denmark cheered British hearts. Not considered a medal prospect in the 3,000 metres before the heats, he emerged as an outsider with a fine run in qualifying. In the final he took bronze and smashed the six-year-old British record held by Jack Buckner.

To earn his medal, Denmark had to beat the man from Denmark. Frank O'Mara, of Ireland, won in 7min 41.62sec and Hammou Boutayeb, of Morocco, was second with 7:43.64. Denmark recorded 7:43.90 and the Dane, Mogens Guldberg, was fourth with 7:44.76. Buckner's record had stood at 7:46.1.

As in the men's sprints, the women's failed to produce a double champion. Irina Sergeyeva, a Soviet who surprisingly defeated Merlene Ottey, of Jamaica, in the 60 metres, could not do so again and took the silver behind her in the 200 metres. Ottey equalled the world record of 22.24sec she had set seven days earlier.

Sergeyeva, it emerges, has had a busy life for someone of 22. She began as a skater, became a high jumper, then a long jumper, then a mother (her son is 18 months) and now a sprinter. She likes to keep occupied and will run both 100 metres and 200 metres outdoors this summer, she said.

Two athletes, Mikhel Shchennikov and Christine Wachtel, have the distinction of winning gold medals in all three biennial world indoor championships and both completed their treble yesterday. Shchennikov, of the Soviet Union, competing in the 5,000 metres walk, has done so with a world record every time.

As the younger, at 23, he is the more likely to keep the sequence going the longest. He lives dangerously, though. In 1987 his victory margin was 0.01sec; yesterday, with 18min 23.55sec, it was 0.05sec and two warnings took him dangerously close to disqualification. Wachtel, aged 26, from Germany, came through a physical 800 metres to win in 2min 1.51sec.

Paul Ereng's impressive list of achievements over 800 metres is growing. He won his second indoor world championship to go with his indoor world record and Olympic title, but only after controversy.

His fellow Kenyan, William Tanui, crossed the line first but was disqualified for breaking lane too soon. The judges had been less observant in the semi-finals on Saturday when Ereng stepped inside the track just after the bell.

Results, page 32

McColgan triumphs

LIZ McColgan triumphed in the women's race at the Fukuoka international cross-country meeting in Japan yesterday. McColgan, the Olympic 10,000 metres silver medal winner, who is back in action after having a baby, covered the 3.7-mile course in 19min 04sec — two seconds ahead of Delila Asiago, of Kenya.

The defending champion, Yobes Ondieka, led a Kenyan clean sweep of the top three places in the men's race, completing the 7.5 mile course in 35min 34sec. William Kosgei was second in 35min 51sec and Cosmas Ndeti third in 35min 52sec.

Marsh gives Australia a good start

GEOFF Marsh, playing his 100th one-day international, scored an impressive 81 to put Australia within reach of a series victory over the West Indies, in Trinidad yesterday.

West Indies, who went into the Queen's Park Oval clash 2-0 down in the five-match series, have never lost an international limited-overs programme in the Caribbean — but looked in real danger as the Australian vice-captain batted 42 overs to led his team towards a total of 245 for seven in 49 overs.

Dean Jones, with 36, and Ian Healy (33 not out) were the other main contributors.

For the West Indies Curtly Ambrose took three for 37 in 10 overs.

On Saturday, Australia took a 2-0 lead over the West Indies when they won the second game by 45 runs.

Dean Jones was the mainstay of Australia's 172 for nine in their 34 overs at Queen's Park Oval, scoring 64 before he became one of six victims of the Trinidadian bowler, Tony Gray.

Des Haynes (45) and Viv Richards (27) both threatened to win the match for the West Indies before Mike Whitney, who finished with three for 41, dismissed both.

As the rate climbed from five-an-over at the beginning, to 84 off 12 and 60 off seven, the match slipped beyond the reach of the West Indies.

Craig McDermott took three for 29 and Mark Waugh two for six as the tail folded and West Indies were dismissed for 127.

Australia began slowly in a match reduced first to 42 overs due to morning rain, then to 34 by a combination of slow over-rates and an unreasonable over-target.

After David Boon departed for five Geoff Marsh found it difficult to make headway against tight bowling, particularly from Curtly Ambrose, and reached a personal run-an-over rate only in the 17th over.

But at the other end Jones was displaying his customary one-day form, driving Malcolm Marshall, cutting Ezra Moseley and swatting Gray. He reached 50 in 59 balls before he was bowled by Gray.

The tall pace bowler had already dismissed Marsh and Allan Border — first ball — in successive deliveries and went on to take six for 50 as the tail collapsed.

The Waugh brothers, Steve with 26 in 30 balls, and Mark 16 in 17, added useful runs.

Yesterday

AUSTRALIA
G.Marsh b Gray 81
M.Taylor c Haynes b Ambrose 3
D.Jones c Richards b Gray 36
M.Waugh b Simmons 17
A.Border c Dujon b Patterson 22
S.Waugh b Ambrose 23
I.Healy not out 33
P.Taylor b Ambrose 2
C.McDermott not out 3
Extras (b-2 lb-10 nb-4 w-8) 25
Total (7wkts,49 overs) 245
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-82, 3-116, 4-165, 5-191, 6-225, 7-239.
M Whitney, B Reid did not bat.
BOWLING: Ambrose 10-1-37-3 (4w 2nb), Patterson 9-0-52-1 (1w 1nb), Gray 10-0-59-2 (2w 1nb), Simmons 10-0-55-1, Hooper 10-0-50-0 (2w)

Saturday's match

AUSTRALIA
D C Boon c Hooper b Moseley 5
G R Marsh c Hooper b Gray 23
D M Jones b Gray 64
*A R Border c Dujon b Gray 0
M E Waugh b Simmons 16
S R Waugh b Gray 26
†I A Healy not out 13
P L Taylor c and b Gray 1
C J McDermott b Ambrose 1
M R Whitney c Hooper b Gray 0
Extras (b 2, lb 7, w 7, nb 7) 23
Total (9 wkts, 34 overs) 172
B A Reid did not bat
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-9, 2-84, 3-84, 4-108, 5-141, 6-161, 7-167, 8-168, 9-172.
BOWLING: Ambrose 8-2-17-1 (5nb); Moseley 5-0-22-1 (1w); Marshall 6-0-37-0; Gray 9-0-50-6 (6w, 2nb); Hooper 3-0-18-0; Richards 1-0-4-1; Simmons 2-0-15-1.

WEST INDIES
P V Simmons c Healy b Reid 13
D L Haynes c Healy b Whitney 45
R B Richardson c S Waugh b McDermott 5
C L Hooper c Healy b Whitney 3
†I V A Richards c Marsh b Whitney 27
A L Logie run out 7
*P J L Dujon b McDermott 7
M D Marshall c and b McDermott 5
E A Moseley c Taylor b M Waugh 2
C E L Ambrose c Taylor b M Waugh 7
A H Gray not out 0
Extras (lb 2, nb 4) 6
Total (21.5 overs) 127
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-47, 3-82, 4-78, 5-90, 6-112, 7-113, 8-116, 9-125.
BOWLING: Reid 5-0-25-1; McDermott 7.1-0-23-3; Whitney 9-2-41-3; S R Waugh 8-0-24-0; M E Waugh 2-0-6-2.

New president

Wilf Wooller, a former captain and secretary of Glamorgan, is to be the county cricket club's new president. Wooller, who will succeed Judge Rowe Harding, who died last month, led Glamorgan to their first county championship title in 1948.

Prean arrives at his title the hard way

CARL Prean won the English national table tennis championships for the first time at Stourbridge yesterday by overcoming, in successive matches, the two most feted players in the English game (Richard Eaton writes).

He reversed the result of last year's final against Desmond Douglas, the champion on 11 occasions, by beating him 21-14, 21-18, 21-6 to follow a semi-final victory by 21-12, 21-17, 21-13 over Chen Xinhua, the former World Cup winner from Rotherham.

Prean played outstandingly well and rarely showed signs of the tension that inhibited him last year when he had also been the top seed.

Douglas, aged 35, led 15-10, and 18-15 in the second game but could not quite recapture the speed that made him such a force for so many years. Chen was unable to cope with a perceptive top spin forehand.

OTHER RESULTS: Men's doubles: S Andrew (Essex) and N Mason (Surrey) bt S Gibson (Lancs) and J Holland (Derbys), 21-9, 21-11. Women's doubles: L Lomas (Beds) and F Eliot (Hants) bt A Gordon (Berks) and A Holt (Lancs), 21-11, 21-15.

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